Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 178 | SATURDAY - SUNDAY JULY 28-29, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Between Saipan and Tinian, which island should the U.S. Air Force choose for its alternate airfield in the event that Guam's Andersen Air Force Base is unavailable?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

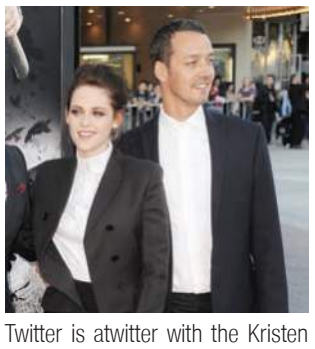
MAHARLIKA

Travel back in time as you walk around the historic town of Vigan in the Philippines. ➤ PAGE 10

ASIA

The wife of ousted Chinese politician Bo Xilai is charged with murder. ➤ PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE



Twitter is atwitter with the Kristen Stewart-Rupert Sanders cheating scandal. ➤ PAGE 20

Group aims to send delegation to World Youth Day. PAGE 2
FEMA prepares NMI to come up with recovery plan. PAGE 3

Water contamination discovered

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

» CUC issues localized drinking water boil-order

Residents of select Saipan villages were warned yesterday to avoid using non-boiled water for consumption after bacteria was found in the water supply.

Acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Alan Fletcher confirmed yesterday that a portion of the water system in the areas of Beach Road, from north of Pacific Islands Club to the San Antonio Church, along Afetnas

See WATER on Page 4

Boston-based firm's $488,882 fee OK'd

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Other lawyers' demand for professional services, expenses approved

U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division designated judge Robert J. Faris granted yesterday the NMI Retirement Fund's Boston-based counsel's demand for payment of $488,882 for professional services and expenses.

During a brief hearing conducted via video teleconference, Faris also granted all other applications for payment of fees and expenses incurred by the Fund's Saipan counsel, Braddock Huesman, and other

See BOSTON on Page 4

PEOPLE NEVER LEARN
Empty beer cans and other types of debris litter not only the grounds near a baseball field on Capital Hill but also portions of a parking lot in front of the governor's office building yesterday afternoon, despite the nearby trash bins. While Saipan has lots of volunteers cleaning up beaches, tourist sites, major roadways, and other public areas, there are also others who continue to throw trash anywhere they want.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Inos

WITH 2 MONTHS TO GO BEFORE PLANNED TRANSITION TO SSA

Inos to lawmakers: Pass pension reform bill expeditiously

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Admin-drafted measure allow contribution withdrawal, voluntary buyback

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos asked lawmakers to promptly act on a newly-released administration bill giving active and inactive members of the NMI Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan "options"—as some lawmakers and active members described it yesterday—including allowing withdrawal of contributions, early retirement, and transitioning into the U.S. Social Security program.

One of the new provisions, for example, is that a member who elects to maintain his defined benefit membership must pay the required employee contribution to the DB plan "in addition to the social security program."

Inos said the bill "will neither affect the current retirees nor impair their benefits."

It also does not change or alter employees' participation in the group health and life insurance programs, he added.

See PENSION on Page 4

Local

‘Let’s be ambassadors of our own trade institute’

» NMTI graduates over 400 in four years’ time

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Acting governor Eloy Inos, second from right, congratulates a graduate during the Northern Marianas Trade Institute 8th Cycle Achievement Ceremony Friday on campus. Others in photo are, from left, John Oliver Gonzales, Fred Camacho, and Anthony Pellegrino. At far left is Vic Cepeda.

Derol Tudela, 33, was unemployed for more than a year and used to be a recipient of the federally funded food stamp program. When he learned about the vocational course offerings at the Northern Marianas Trade Institute, he was hesitant to try it out.

“I knew it would be very difficult for me to try because I have no car and I just felt that I cannot make it. But with the support and motivation I received from my family, I made the decision to give it a shot, and I am happy that I did,” Tudela said.

He related that while taking classes at the institute, he was given the opportunity to be trained at Hyatt Regency Saipan, which eventually hired him as a regular employee.

Tudela was among the latest graduates of the trade institute who were presented certificates during an achievement ceremony on Friday. Tudela was conferred a certificate in hotel and restaurant program.

“I am proud of myself now. If I did it this far, I am sure everybody can do it as well! Let’s take advantage of this opportunity to grow and succeed and NMTI is here to help,” he told the crowd.

Sixty-two-year-old Singeru Sugiyama, who also received a certificate for the hotel and restaurant program, also spoke to the crowd about his experience with the institute. A former government employee, Sugiyama had nothing but praise for the institute and its mentors. He was among the recipients of special awards during Friday’s ceremony and had a perfect attendance in all his classes.

“What I had achieved and where I am today, I owe it all to this institution. So I urged you all: Let’s all be ambassador of our trade institute—the NMTI,” Sugiyama said.

Tudela and Sugiyama were among the 74 individuals who were conferred certificates during NMTI’s achievement rites: nine in core curriculum; 21 in hotel and restaurant level II program; 12 in engine performance laboratory; 17 in automotive brake-systems lab; 15 in culinary arts level III; and three in carpentry level II.

It was learned that through the internship and trainings provided by partner employers, 38 of the 74 graduates have already found jobs in either public or private sector.

Acting governor Eloy Inos, in his keynote speech, praised the institute for producing more than 400 graduates since its inception in 2008. He said that gracing NMTI’s achievement rites is always a pleasure as the Fitial administration joins in celebrating a great accomplishment.

NMTI founder and president Anthony Pellegrino urged the graduates to continue to move up the ladder of success. The institute, he assured, will continue to provide local citizens the logistics and direction they need to fulfill their dreams to join the workforce. “You are going to make this country great and prosperous again,” he said.

According to Department of Labor Employment Services director Alfred Pangelinan, the agency is working with the institute to ensure that its graduates are provided the needed support in finding jobs on island. “Our goal is to put all of you in a place where you can work and be successful,” he told graduates.

The institute recognized seven individuals for their exemplary class performance. They included Singeru Sugiyama, Alona Parrish, Derol Tudela, Merry Joy Zak, Chesman Fagoliige, Jason Sumed, and David Uchel.

New group aims to send delegation to World Youth Day

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members and officials of the San Jose Youth Organization gather for a group photo during a meeting Thursday night at Minatchom Atdao. The newly established nonprofit organization intends to send a delegation to the World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on July 23-28, 2013.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Members of the newly created San Jose Youth Organization are aiming to send an official delegation to the next World Youth Day in 2013.

This early, the group is now busy organizing and planning activities that will help them meet their financial target and fulfill their dream of becoming a part of the celebration.

World Youth Day is a youth-oriented Catholic Church event. It was initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1985 and celebrated through a weeklong international event that attracts hundreds of thousands of youths from all over the world. The next World Youth Day is slated for July 23 through 28 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Kevin Iginoef, San Jose Youth Organization president, believes that preparing early will give the group enough time to raise the $45,000 they need for the trip. So far, 18 members have committed to participating in the world’s biggest youth pilgrimage next year.

Several fundraising activities are now being lined up, including hot lunches and dinner shows as well as the yearlong raffle drawing with $2,000 and $500 cash prizes at stake.

Board director Michael Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* that the non-profit group has already printed 3,000 tickets that will be raffled on June 26, 2013. He’s appealing to the community for its assistance and support.

At a meeting Thursday night at the Minatchom Atdao, group members were seen mapping out plans with parents, whom they described as very supportive of the group’s objective.

The San Jose Youth Organization was created in January this year. It has six board members and key officers.

Andrew Orsini, a board director, told *Saipan Tribune* that they are appealing for the community’s help by supporting the fundraising campaigns they will launch throughout the year. He described the youth pilgrimage as a good cause and a great opportunity for Commonwealth youths who can actually take part and network with their counterparts around the globe. He said the number of delegates may increase, depending on the interest they will be able to generate for the event.

Solomons prepares for arrival of British royalty

» Prince William, Duchess Kate reportedly ‘excited’ to visit islands

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Times/PIR)—A joint committee of key stakeholders are now finalizing plans for the visit of Prince William of England and wife Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, stating that it would be another opportunity to showcase the unique cultures of Solomon Islands to the world.

“The Festival of Pacific Arts was timely in that we now have an excellent venue to showcase our culture,” said one of the organizers. “We have retained some of our performers from the various provinces to ensure that Prince William and Kate get a complete picture of our many diverse cultural groups.”

Apart from the traditional arts and performances Prince William and Kate will also be visiting various sites, although organizers remain tightlipped on the actual venues and program.

It is understood Prince William and Kate are both excited to visit this remote part of the world. Kate has already revealed that William has been practicing his dance moves ahead of their trip to the Solomon Islands.

The Duchess spoke about the Duke’s special preparations when the royal couple met the Solomon Islands’ governor general Sir Frank Kabui at a reception last month following a Diamond Jubilee thanksgiving service.

During the event at the Guildhall, William said: “We’re extremely excited. Both of us have never been anywhere near there.”

Kate giggled as she added: “William’s been practicing his dance moves.”

FEMA prepares NMI to come up with recovery plan before disaster

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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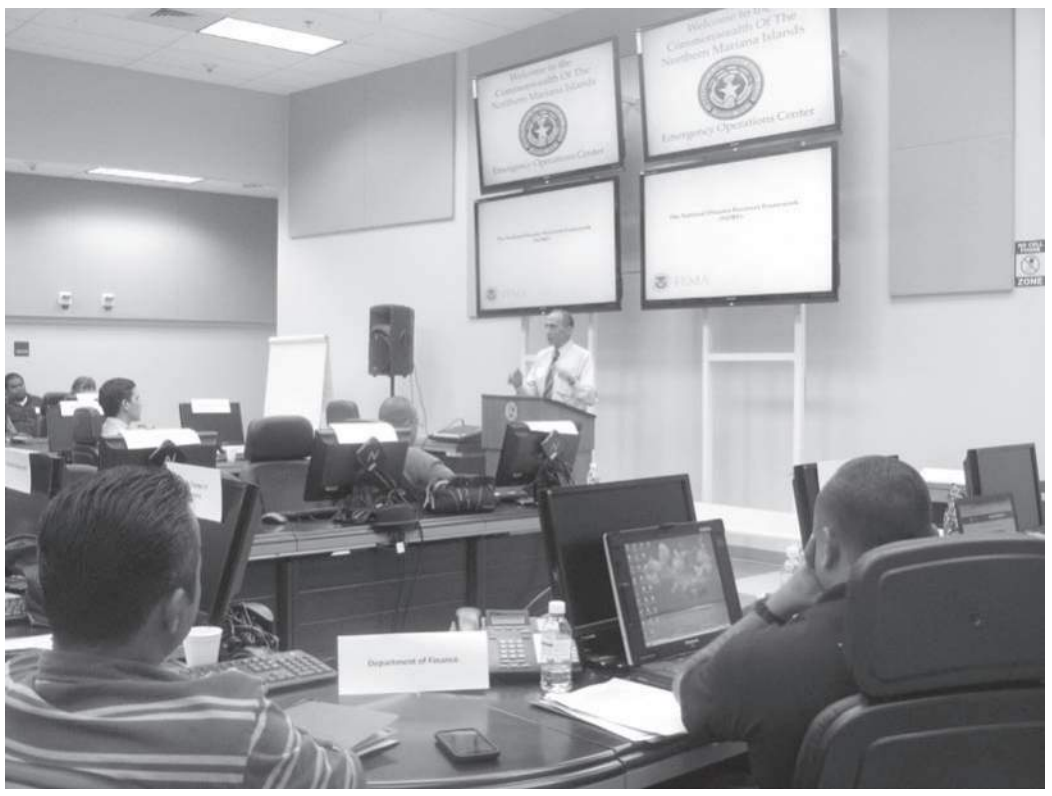
REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has introduced to the CNMI the National Disaster Recovery Framework that President Obama signed and put into effect in September 2011.

FEMA officials have been going through all the states across the United States and its communities and territories so that people will understand what the Framework is all about.

Over 50 individuals from local governments, private sector, and non-profit and faith-based organizations participated in the workshop held Thursday at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill.

Stephen M. DeBlasio Sr., FEMA Region 9 federal disaster recovery coordinator, served as the speaker at the workshop.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Stephen M. DeBlasio Sr., Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 9 federal disaster recovery coordinator, discusses the National Disaster Recovery Framework during a workshop Thursday at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill.

In an interview, DeBlasio said the United States has done a pretty good job of responding to natural and man-made disasters but President Obama was concerned that that there are too many gaps and challenges on the recovery side that are not being addressed.

He said this Framework basically commands all of the federal agencies to come to the table and partner with the Commonwealth, territories, and states of the U.S. to come up with a framework and structure that will lend itself to a smart recovery.

"A recovery that will rebuild in a way that we are more resilient, we're more disaster-resistant. And we create a sustainable community that will be stronger and they will deal better with future disasters," DeBlasio said.

This Framework, he said, is critical to the CNMI because the Commonwealth is similar to other areas in the country that are facing many challenges—tough economies and housing issues.

The FEMA official stressed that it is critical not only for the CNMI but also across the entire United States that federal agencies come to bring their programs to the table—whether it is funding or grant money or just technical expertise—to help develop a smart recovery plan.

"One of the most important things about this Framework… is planning for recovery before disasters," he said.

DeBlasio and other FEMA officials are expected to return in January to follow up on the program. "This is just the beginning of what I view as a great partnership for the future," he added.

CNMI Office of Homeland Security special adviser Marvin Seman said the workshop is primarily focused on preparation by having a Framework in response to after a disaster.

"In most events, emergency disaster response will take between a month or two, but the recovery phase can live up to years," Seman said.

Aug. 2 hearing on marine sports operators' bid to remove bond

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho will hear on Aug. 2, 2012, the marine sports operators' request to amend a court order that requires them to post a $62,034 bond for them to regain access to Managaha.

In an order issued Thursday, Camacho ordered all parties in the case to appear at the Aug. 2 hearing at 9am.

Camacho said he may or may not hear any motions filed in this matter after the date of his order at the scheduled hearing.

On Wednesday, marine sports operators filed a motion asking the court to either remove the bond or to only require a nominal bond.

F. Matthew Smith, one of the lawyers for the marine sports operators, stated that Camacho should amend his July 19, 2012 order, given the urgency of the matter, the irreparable harm already being suffered by their clients, the likelihood of success on the merits, and the general lack of financial means.

In that July order, Camacho granted the marine sports operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against the Department of Public Lands is decided on its merits.

Camacho, however, ordered the marine sports operators—Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc. doing business as Amigo Aquatic Sports, Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc.—to post a $62,034 bond.

Camacho said the preliminary injunction shall take effect once the full bond is remitted to the court.

In the petitioners' motion to modify the bond requirement, Smith said that Camacho erroneously required the bond where none is required. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Wecco in Guam to pay more than $79,000 in back wages

YIGO, Guam—Yigo-based World Electric & Construction Co. Inc., known as Wecco, has agreed to pay $79,138 in back wages to 12 workers following an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division that found violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act's minimum wage, overtime and record-keeping provisions.

"These employees now will receive proper wages for all hours worked," said Terence Trotter, district director of the Wage and Hour Division in Honolulu, Hawaii, which has jurisdiction over Guam. "Other employers should take note and ensure that they are paying their employees in compliance with the FLSA."

An investigation by the division's Honolulu District Office found that the employer failed to pay the employees at least the minimum wage during their initial period of employment. Instead, the employer provided only a $10 per day meal allowance, with no additional wages, for several weeks, during which the employees worked 30-40 hours. Also, the employer failed to pay an overtime premium for hours worked beyond 40 hours in a week and did not maintain an accurate record of employees' hours worked.

The FLSA requires that covered, nonexempt employees be paid at least the federal minimum wage of $7.25 for all hours worked, plus time and one-half their regular rates, including commissions, bonuses and incentive pay, for hours worked beyond 40 per week. Additionally, the law requires that accurate records of employees' wages, hours and other conditions of employment be maintained.

For more information about the FLSA and other federal wage laws, call the Wage and Hour Division's toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243) or its Honolulu office at 808-541-1361. Information also is available at http://www.dol.gov/whd. ***(USDOL)***

Sobriety, child seat, seatbelt checkpoints on Rota

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting Occupant Protection Child Restraint/Sobriety checkpoints on Rota on Aug. 2, 3, and 4, 2012.

On Aug. 2, the first sobriety checkpoint will be held along San Francisco Highway by Tatacho Area, from 7pm to 8:15pm. The second will be along San Francisco Highway by Chaliat Area, from 9:30pm to 10:45pm. The third will be along San Francisco Highway by Lotgan Area, from 12am to 1:15am.

On Aug. 3, the first sobriety checkpoint will be held along San Francisco Highway by Pinatang Park, from 6:30pm to 7:45pm. The second will be along San Francisco Highway by Guata Area, from 9pm to 10:15pm. The third will be along San Francisco Highway by Sinapalo 3 Park, from 11:30pm to 12:45am.

On Aug. 4, the first OP/CR checkpoint will be held along Sinapalo 1 by San Isidro Church, from 10am to 11:15am. The second will be along San Francisco Highway by Uyulan Area, from 1pm to 2:15pm. The third will be along District 2 by Midtown Mart, from 3:30pm to 4:45pm.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location.

In addition, police officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

This activity is part of the department's efforts to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

For more information, contact Sgt. Jarrod T. Manglona or Officer Tito S. Hocog at 532-9433. ***(DPS)***

PENSION

From Page 1

"The administration hopes this measure will be entertained expeditiously so as to begin the process of rehabilitating our Retirement Fund for our current retirees while transitioning our active members as needed," Inos said in a letter sent late Thursday afternoon to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and acting House speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan).

Some active members and lawmakers asked for comment yesterday said their initial reading of the bill shows that non-retired members are given "options" on what to do with their retirement contributions.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said he hopes the proposal will pass as is, given that it "takes care of active employees"—as lawmakers and the administrative have been talking about for weeks.

"The good thing about it is that it gives options—if you want to retire after 10 or 15 years, if you want to withdraw your contributions, or move to Social Security. The bottom line, those with enough contributions to the Social Security…can still supplement that with a voluntary plan," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune.*

'Highlights'

Inos said there are four highlights of the proposed measure.

One, it allows vested members—active and inactive—to retire. Members vested but have not reached 20 years of creditable service may retire at a prorated pension amount.

Two, the bill allows all other active and inactive members who are not retired to voluntarily withdraw their contributions.

Three, it transitions government employees into the Social Security program.

Four, it makes the defined contribution plan a voluntary plan to supplement the Social Security program.

"This measure effectively addresses the needs of the defined benefit active and inactive members, as well as the defined contribution members," Inos told lawmakers.

He said the administration also urges the Legislature to pass other measures pending in both chambers that address the Fund's needs.

A government employee for 15 years, requesting anonymity, said while there are options presented, the details are still murky at this time, especially on the payment of premium if the employee opts for a Social Security buyback.

"All along I thought the government will pay for the whole buyback but my understanding of the bill is that we will be responsible for premium payments. We have to carefully read the bill before we could say we support or do not support it," the employee said.

Another government employee for 17 years said he hopes lawmakers will not drastically tinker with the bill as currently drafted.

"It's good as it is now in my view. At least everyone is given a choice," he said.

The Senate president, for his part, said senators who were on Rota yesterday distributed copies of the newly-released pension reform bill to residents while a special Senate panel was conducting a public hearing on the first bill "expressing the desire" of the CNMI to transition into the U.S. Social Security.

Manglona said the leadership cannot comment on the bill yet pending further review.

Other lawmakers, including House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), said a review of the proposed eight-page bill, also known as the "CNMI Pension Recovery and Reform Act of 2012," is ongoing.

Devil in the details

There are portions of the measure that were highlighted to direct readers' attention.

For example, it adds the phrase "including interest earned" in this sentence on page 3: "Any employee who elects to separate from the fund shall receive his/her employee contribution 'including interest earned' without penalty and without separating from the government."

The succeeding statement is also highlighted: Inactive members of the Fund as of the effective date of this Act who have not retired "may elect to retire if vested or elect a complete severance, upon separation shall receive the amount of employee contribution said inactive member contributed to the fund including interest earned without penalty."

Section 203 of the bill is about the government ceasing the withholding and remittance of employees' portion to the employees DB account upon extension of the Social Security.

The succeeding sentences are highlighted: "Provided however, that if an employee elects to maintain his/her defined benefit membership, the employee must pay the required employee contribution to the defined benefit plan in addition to the social security program."

The rest of the paragraph, also highlighted, reads, "The rate to be paid to the defined benefit plan shall be the established rate or a rate established by the Retirement Fund administrator or its successor subsequent thereto. Provided further that upon termination of government obligations to withhold employee's contributions, autonomous agencies with outstanding employer contributions due to the NMIRF on the effective date of this act shall continue payments to the NMIRF until paid in full."

A highlighted portion on Page 5 under Section 204, reads, "For employees who have applied to retire at the effective date of this act with 20 years of creditable service, but have not begun receiving pension payments, said employees may elect to cancel their retirement application and withdraw their contributions instead."

On page 7, Section 7 Buyback, reads: "If authorized by the Social Security program, an employee who elects to buy back quarters of service into the Social Security program will be responsible to pay any required premiums."

Race against time

This still unnumbered bill on retirement comes barely two months before the planned Oct. 1 transition into the Social Security program.

Ogumoro said this second bill may be introduced by Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), author of the vetoed House Bill 170-226 that allowed active members to withdraw their contributions without penalty. Cabrera is still off-island.

Moreover, the second bill is now out even as the Senate has yet to pass the first House bill "expressing the desire" of the CNMI to extend the Social Security program to the Commonwealth's government employees.

The Senate president said yesterday that the Special Committee on Retirement Fund issues is "leaning toward" recommending passage of the first bill, although that may still be changed depending on the public hearing on Tinian on Monday. A public hearing on the first bill was conducted on Rota yesterday afternoon.

Inos, as well as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, met several times with lawmakers to discuss Retirement Fund issues. Inos also held a meeting with Cabinet secretaries, division directors, and other officials early this week to present the administration's pension reform plan, which received a warm response from those in attendance.

The government owes the Retirement Fund over $320 million in unpaid employer contribution plus interests.

Fitial placed the Fund under a state of emergency after a federal judge dismissed the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

The administration wants the Fund to be placed under the Department of Finance, mostly to disburse retirees' pension, while active members are transitioned to the U.S. Social Security retirement system if they so choose.

'THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE' HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI historian Don Farrell, right, addresses visiting veterans, including those from World War II and Vietnam War, during a wreath laying at American Memorial Park in Garapan on Thursday afternoon. The Military Historical Tours, in coordination with Pacific Development Inc. and other agencies in the CNMI, brought the veterans to Guam, Tinian and Saipan.

BOSTON

From Page 1

lawyers as well as members of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors who are involved in the Fund's bankruptcy case.

The judge denied John A. Angello's request for payment of $378,010 in retirement share and administrative cost.

With the ruling, the Fund will pay $488,882 to the Brown Rudnick law firm; $11,247 to Huesman; $2,341.50 to Colin Thompson, the Saipan-based counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors; and $74,923.33 to Don Jeffrey Gelber, the Hawaii-based counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors.

In addition, the Fund has to pay $336.90 in expenses to members of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, and $14,950 to the Office of the U.S. Trustee.

Faris, who presided over the hearing in Hawaii, pointed out that it is rather ironic that the CNMI government is concerned about attorneys' fees and had this sudden concern about the financial welfare of the Fund when the Fund's situation was created by the government's failure to pay its obligations.

Faris asked the U.S. Trustee to act as a clearinghouse when the applications and quarterly fees are paid. He also ordered the U.S. Trustee to prepare an order dismissing the case upon the of Fund's payments.

The hearing lasted about 30 minutes. Only a few retirees watched the proceeding in the district court.

In an interview after the hearing, Huesman said they agree with the judge that the "real bad actor in this mess" is the CNMI government for its inability and refusal to perform its commitments to retirees.

Assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich said: "We understand the opinion of the judge. We of course disagree. But the most important thing, the bankruptcy case was dismissed on grounds advanced by the Commonwealth and other parties."

Attorney Stephen Woodruff, co-counsel for unnamed retirees, said Faris made some incisive comments as the judge obviously carefully analyzed the case.

"He is a very smart, razor sharp judge on these issues," Woodruff said.

He said it's good that Brown Rudnick's fee was reduced from the original billing.

WATER

From Page 1

Road, and Koblerville were found to have E. coli bacteria, which can make people sick, particularly those with weakened immune systems.

E. coli is a fecal indicator bacteria; it can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have also shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

The utilities firm has yet to determine where the bacteria is coming from but hinted at some possibilities: surface water runoff from recent rains into unsealed areas, back-flow while doing system maintenance, and leaks within older and dilapidated pipes.

Fletcher said a new round of samples will be collected today, Saturday, the results of which will be available Sunday morning.

"CUC has not pinpointed the root case of the contamination. However, its operations crews are actively cleaning the system and taking steps to remove any contamination. Increasing disinfection, system flushing, and repairing of any potential entry points by animals are currently underway," he said.

CUC will lift the boil-order it issued to affected customers once the problem is addressed.

Fletcher said that CUC has increased the dosage of chlorine in the affected areas and is also flushing fire hydrants to clear the water lines.

Fletcher explained that when a drinking water boil-order is issued, it means affected customers are barred from drinking the water without boiling it first.

CUC advises customers to bring the water to a boil, for one minute, and then let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

CUC hand-delivered yesterday its boil-order notice to affected customers. According to Fletcher the notification occurs when a sample is confirmed.

"In this case, one routine sample tested positive from a series of samples taken on Wednesday. Samples take 24 hours to process, which was Thursday morning. Once it showed 'positive' we immediately re-sample the area and one sample was confirmed [again tested positive] on Friday morning, resulting in our public notification today [Friday]," explained Fletcher.

CUC takes an average of 70 samples each month and without going through all the testing and re-sampling procedures, an official notice cannot be issued, he added.

Fletcher pointed out that this is the first boil-order CUC issued in three years. He said it was in 2009 when CUC had many boil-orders but due to the changes in its operation, including disinfection processes and operation personnel certifications, these have resulted in best practices for delivering drinking water.

"While we have made a lot of progress, this event shows we must stay diligent and that we have more to accomplish," he said.

MINA, youth group's Laolao Bay cleanup nets 50 lbs of trash

Staff of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and a youth group from the Jesus is Lord Church jointly did a beach cleanup at Laolao Bay last Saturday, July 21.

The purpose of the Laolao Bay beach cleanup was not only to prevent the accumulation of marine debris but also to encourage volunteers to learn more about near shore marine management.

Saturday's beach cleanup was focused in an area designated as Zone 2, from the Coral Reef Management Office parking lot to the MINA hut, located and along the road and shore. The cleanup coordinators were Shirlynn Perez and Herbert Sablan.

The Christian Youth for the Nation members collected 11 bags of trash that weighed 50.79 lbs, and seven bags of recyclables that weighed 36.79 lbs.

Genelin Camacho, a member of the Jesus is Lord Church, says she is grateful for being given the opportunity "to clean this beautiful beach and it feels good to give back to the community."

She was surprised at the large amount of trash they collected, thinking that Laolao Bay is already a clean area. "This beach cleanup motivated me to do things differently in the future by recycling and placing trash in the right place."

Another member, Jeremie Tanghal, stated that he collected a huge amount of trash and that taught him to protect the environment by making sure that people place their trash in trash cans or recycle bins.

During the trash collection, they found a gas stove and an aluminum faucet. "We can assume that these were result of illegal dumping and not from picnics," they said.

MINA is a nonprofit organization that works to sustain the natural environment that ensures the islands' way of life. Tasi Watch is a collaborative effort between the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Our LaoLao Campaign, Division of Environmental Equality, Coastal Resource Management Office, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other government agencies, and private organizations by providing the Laolao Bay communities the opportunity to manage near shore marine resources. ***(MINA)***

MVA promotes NMI 'Healthy Lunchtime' winner

Huh

Esther Huh, the Northern Mariana Islands winner of first lady Michelle Obama's Healthy Lunchtime Challenge, is getting some face time in international tourism markets through the social media outlets of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Huh's "Pitaya Healthy Salad" was selected along with representative recipes from each U.S. state, territory, and the District of Columbia as part of a nationwide challenge to promote healthy lunches. The first lady's Initiative is called Let's Move!

Within hours of the announcement, Huh's success was being shared on the MVA's websites, blogs, and Twitter-equivalent sites in Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Russian and English.

"Promoting the Northern Marianas is a community effort, and we're pleased to share Esther's success with potential visitors," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Our online and social media outreach is quick and extensive in our tourism markets, and we encourage MVA members and other tourism stakeholders to take advantage of the opportunity to promote their products and activities. Exit surveys show our visitors are very interested in learning about and trying local foods, so these posts should strike a positive chord."

Huh is a 6th grader and will get to attend a Kids' "State Dinner" at the White House hosted by Obama on Aug. 20, 2012. The lunch will feature a selection of the winner's recipes, followed by a tour of the White House kitchen garden. ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and a youth group from the Jesus is Lord Church have their picture taken after a beach cleanup at Laolao Bay on July 21.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRADES TECHNICIAN

Opening Date: Monday, July 16, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, July 30, 2012

JVA 12-022: Mechanic, Six (6) positions or more, depending on funding.
JVA 12-023: Electrician, Two (2) positions or more, depending on funding.
JVA 12-024: Operator, Four (4) positions or more, depending on funding.
JVA 12-025: Machinist, One (1) position or more, depending on funding
JVA 12-026: Welder, Two (2) positions or more, depending on funding.

LOCATION:
- Power Plant 4, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Lower Base, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to Power Plant, Songsong, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to other sections of CUC throughout the Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- However these positions are primarily for the power plants on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $17,282 to $25,059 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

CONTRACT: Only if there are work authorization limitations. Otherwise, not contracted.

POSITION(S): See above.

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director for Power or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, maintenance and/or repairs in the service area assigned. Install new plant and equipment. Operate and maintain plant and equipment. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Positions assigned to Power Generation are also responsible for: Control room Operations and load dispatch. Monitor and balance generator and feeder loads.. Start up and synchronize generator sets. Monitoring lubrication oil and fuel consumption. Check and monitor engine oil and cooling water temperatures and pressures. Check and monitor bearing , exhaust gas and charge air temperatures. Record readings and report generator and feeder trips to plant management. Prepare switching programs and coordinate distribution line switching for plant and field staff. Monitoring loads on feeders and generators. Incinerating used oil and carry out SPCC plan routine work. Perform preventive maintenance and overhauls on plant and equipment. Troubleshoot and rectify faults on plant and equipment. Test and calibrate equipment. Condition monitoring and routine testing of generators, transformers and motors. Perform housekeeping duties. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult School Diploma (through the Adult Basic Education Program) and four years of increasingly responsible, proven experience in the trade assigned. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in assigned service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Admin. office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. • Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

JVA No. 12-027

Opening Date: Monday, July 16, 2012
Closing Date: Monday, July 30, 2012

Safety Technician

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Technical Manager for Oil or his/her designee. Assists in inspections to inform, enforce and regulate compliance and environmental issues; writes citations for corrective actions. Assists in responding to incidents and emergencies to ensure compliance with laws, rules and regulations; ensures customer is issues are addressed and proper procedures are followed. Drafts reports on accidents and incidents. Assists in conducting a wide variety of workshops and/or orientations. Positions are also responsible for: Assisting field workers with traffic safety; Ensuring proper protective equipment is being used; Transporting vehicle operators for drug or alcohol testing; Investigating property theft and personal injuries; Conducting safety orientations and workshops. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION(S):
- Power Plant 4, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Lower Base, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to Power Plant, Songsong, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- Possible, temporary assignment to other sections of CUC throughout the Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
- However these positions are primarily for the Technical Manager of Oil Office on Saipan for the power plants on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $17,000.00 to $20,000.00 per annum; un-classified; un-graded.

CONTRACT: Only if there are work authorization limitations. Otherwise, not contracted.

POSITION(S): Two.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program and two years of work experience. Knowledge of: OSHA and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Investigation techniques; Safety procedures; Mitigation procedures. Skills in: Conducting inspections; Conducting investigations; Reading plans and specifications; Performing testing; Interpreting policies, procedures, rules and regulations; Preparing reports; Giving presentations; Conducting workshops; Using a two-way radios; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications may be picked up and dropped off at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. ___

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Push the bad news aside for some Olympic spirit

The following editorial appeared in the Dallas Morning News on Thursday, July 26:

Our brains have only so much space. After friends and relatives, mortgage and matrimony, parents and parenting, we allot some portion to current events. A lot for some folks, less for others, but part, right?

And that part has been a fairly dispiriting place for some time. From bitterly partisan election fights to Aurora, Penn State, crippling drought across the U.S. and death in Syria—not to mention our ever-present economic doldrums—this has been a tough time.

If ever there was a year we needed some sporting distraction, this would be it. And few sporting events distract, inspire and entertain like the Summer Olympics, which conveniently begin this week in London.

Politics won't disappear entirely—witness the flap over whether to pause to remember the Israeli victims of Palestinian terrorists at the 1972 Munich Games—and nationalism is a core value of the competition. Still, for a needed respite, we can cheer on Team USA, or any country or individual athletes, and, more important, lose ourselves for a spell in story lines of true achievement.

The Olympics, in a way, are sports for people who might not be particularly wild about, you know, sports. The NFL and Major League Baseball aren't for everyone, but who doesn't get into a story about a dedicated young person going for broke in that one chance to achieve a lifelong dream?

OK, hoary old chestnuts of Olympic writing aside, these London Games could be your chance to shed the media filter and watch what you want. You may be stuck stateside, but NBC and its family of networks have cameras everywhere.

Forget those days when the family crowded around the picture tube to see Jim McKay talk about Hank Iba. NBC promises to deliver 5,535 hours of Olympic coverage to your flat screen, laptop, tablet or smartphone.

That's about 2,000 hours on television—via NBC, NBC Sports Network, Telemundo, MSNBC, CNBC, Bravo and 3DTV and specialty channels—and an additional 3,500 hours streamed live online to nbcolympics.com. Barry Horn, this newspaper's sports media expert, notes that this is the equivalent of 231 days of coverage—or 291 hours a day over 19 days. (Safety alert: Check with your boss and spouse before embarking on any crazed personal endurance test.)

If prime time remains your primary destination, Bob Costas will be your host for the ninth time. Here's hoping he gets his way and honors those Israeli athletes with their minute, even if the International Olympic Committee doesn't have the sense to go along.

Some names you already know, some you'll learn, and some will stick. There's a great story behind almost every one. Our wish is for a controversy-free sporting festival. The bitterness of the regular news cycle can wait a couple of weeks.

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Rail trails to Nei Menggu

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

First, geography and history lessons. *Meng* is Mongolia. *Temujin* who became the Great *(Genghis)* Khan was voracious in his conquest of territories in Central Asia, the Far East, and Europe. In his time, talks between Mongols and Europe (Crusaders) to form an alliance against the Muslims were in progress. It did not materialize.

Genghis Khan, in spite of his violent reputation because of the manner he and his forces conducted conquest, was incredibly tolerant of religious diversity in his time. He did not establish a state religion, and religion was not a reason for political conflict. The Mongols later embraced non-violent Tibetan Buddhism.

Before then, one of Genghis Khan's grandsons went knocking on Western Europe's door but Temujin's death sent everyone back home in a scramble for power. Though the Great Khan divided up his empire into Khanates to minimize infighting among members of his family, a power vacuum ensued.

His progeny eight centuries later joined Inner Mongolia *(Nei Menggu)* to China's body politic, while Outer Mongolia *(Wei Menggu),* declaring independence after the collapse of the Qing dynasty and becoming a protectorate of Russia following the Bolshevik revolution, finally had its independence internationally recognized in 1954. In 1992, it became a multi-party republic.

As the sun rose on our rail trek *From Mukden to Manzhouli,* we woke up to the wide expanse of thinning forest and large tracts of farms. Foothills undulated with rapeseed cover, not unlike the flatter terrain of Illinois and Iowa. Sunflowers rivaled cornfields, but huge tracts of potatoes mimicked Idaho fields. A fog in the early morn that was thicker than mist nestled close to the ground, but we noticed a faint coloration that can only be the result of smog.

The forested terrain one normally finds in Manchuria began to slowly give way to birches and then fir, finally, to Bonzai-looking shrubs. Soon it was all grazing grass as far as the eyes can see. The landscape turned into wide open ranchland reminiscent of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, and as the train hied to the capital of Hulanbier Prefecture, Hailar, herds of cattle and sheep were clustered along green grass and watering holes.

A dream of the grassland is a common theme of Mongolian art and music.

The dark carbon-mixed fog made the smog a strange apparition in the steppes of Inner Mongolia. But the 21st century barrels down the road as lonely trucks on long hauls in long-stretched single-lane country roads bring food and material commodities to what was once a desolate, treeless ground of the yurt-dwelling nomadic Mongols, as well as carry manufactured products from the coal-fired factories that dot the landscape.

The sun showed up by the time we got to Ya Ke Shi (shi+city), a domain that seems to reach back to Kiev and St. Petersburg in Russia. This part of the Mongol empire was once a part of Manchuria where the Russians vied for territory against the Manchus, and later, losing to the Japanese. But the train that took Slavic architecture to Harbin, to be known as the Moscow of the Far East, left a decidedly Byzantine trail on the terrain leading all the way to Dalian at the southern tip of Liaoning.

I once jokingly asked a student from Inner Mongolia if she grew up in a yurt, (made a mistake in the '60s of asking a Native American if he grew up in a teepee). The student was amused at my image of Inner Mongolia, a product of historical romanticism rather than reality on the ground. It was like my days in Dallas asking my roommate if we could watch a cattle drive to the stockyards. And contemporary *Nei Menggu* is hardly Mongol anymore, never mind that *Termujin* the Great Khan (Genghis) is enshrined in Ulan Batur as the father of Mongolia and the Mongol people.

There was a cluster of yurts *(bao)* along the rail line, though looking more glorified for visiting tourists than shelter to the horsemen of the steppes. Indeed, Inner Mongolia is now 80 percent Han, which is like the Midwest being predominantly Caucasian as its history included the driving of Native Americans into reservations and their extinction.

Gov. Ben Fitial's plaintive speech on being a Refaluwasch to the climate change symposium held at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. struck a needed cord.

Beyond Uncle Ben's genial reminder to the feds for consultation, especially as the melting of the polar ice threaten sea level rise, the Refaluwasch might want to be more assertive in the radical transformation of its own self-understanding (culture does not stand still), particularly in the area of political decision-making. The Mongolians have abandoned the role of the great one *(Ghengis),* and from what I gathered in conversation with Lino Olopai, the Refaluwasch need to democratize its own highly stratified social structure.

The Mongolians thrive in the metaphor of the open grasslands; the Refaluwasch in the open seas. Opening up the strictures of culture is itself a culturally appropriate and timely methodology. The planet longs for open minds, open hearts, and open doors!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Both parties shadow boxing on the economy

By CARL LEUBSDORF
The Dallas Morning News

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.

Facing another fiscal showdown, it's business as usual on Capitol Hill.

House Republicans are threatening to renew the tactics that nearly precipitated an economic disaster last summer by withholding support from extending the federal debt limit without severe budget cuts.

At the same time, many of them are trying to rescind some of the planned defense cuts that resulted from last year's failed effort to deal with the problem. Next week, they'll vote on extending the Bush tax cuts, including those that benefit the wealthy.

Senate Democrats are seeking leverage with a similar tactic, vowing to let all of the Bush cuts expire at year's end if the Republicans don't agree to exempt the cuts for upper-income Americans.

This week, they're staging a pair of symbolic votes to show Republicans are standing firm behind those tax cuts.

Meanwhile, neither party is showing much interest in the latest bipartisan effort urging lawmakers to enact a balanced package of revenue increases and cuts in both current spending and long-term entitlement costs that could fix the government's fiscal problems once and for all.

"The Campaign to fix the Debt" was launched last week by a group of prominent former Democratic and Republican officeholders and corporate CEOs, headed by the co-chairs of the panel that proposed the best known recent debt control package, former GOP Sen. Alan Simpson and former White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles.

It includes Republicans willing to consider revenue increases, like former Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, and Democrats pushing entitlement cuts, like former Budget Director Alice Rivlin.

In a sense, this is shadow boxing. No one expects anything to happen before Congress holds its post-election "lame duck" session, facing a Dec. 31 deadline for the scheduled expiration of the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts and the need for yet another increase in the legal debt limit.

The ultimate prescription still should be something akin to the "grand compromise" that President Barack Obama floated last year in his secret talks with House Speaker John Boehner.

But this is almost impossible to even discuss in an election campaign where the two sides are attacking one another on the very issues that need to be compromised.

If Obama publicly urged a plan including tax increases and entitlement cuts, he'd mainly make many Democrats mad at him and inspire more GOP criticism. Any call by Mitt Romney for entitlement reform would only rev up the Democrats and their allies to accuse him of wanting to scrap Medicare.

That doesn't mean nothing can happen for the next three months. In fact, there are repeated reports of quiet talks among some of the remaining congressional centrists on how package proposals could be constructed.

After all, everyone knows:

■ A relatively painless way to improve Social Security's long-term solvency is to raise the retirement age gradually and change the way annual cost of living adjustments are calculated.

■ Medicare's long-term viability can be improved by making higher income recipients pay some medical costs that the program now pays in full and curbing costs in the overall health system.

■ A revision of the income tax laws to limit or eliminate some preferences and modify the rate structure would produce extra revenue in a more politically acceptable way than fruitless fighting over which Bush cuts to extend.

■ These steps would ease the pressure on the 15 percent of the budget that funds discretionary domestic programs. But a basic problem remains that most congressional Republicans don't want the revenue increases and defense cuts that Democrats demand in return for backing entitlement cuts; it's a battle that has been raging for at least 30 years, since budget cutting first became a major issue in the early Reagan years.

So the Simpson-Bowles folks have it right. Anything they can do to generate support for a balanced solution could help when Congress finally confronts this—if it does.

After all, no one really wants to repeat last year's experience, when cliffhanger politics unsettled world finances and produced an inadequate solution that lawmakers are now trying to change. But though the solutions are out there, it's easy to see that happening again—this time on New Year's Eve.

Obama's greatest political liability

By WILLIAM MCKENZIE
The Dallas Morning News

William McKenzie is an editorial columnist for The Dallas Morning News. *Readers may write to him at the* Dallas Morning News, *Communications Center, Dallas, Texas 75265; email: wmckenzie@dallasnews.com*

All along, I've felt Barack Obama would be a two-term president. He's a cultural phenomenon who reflects America's exciting, growing diversity, and presidents representing social shifts usually don't bottom out after one term. Plus, he's charismatic with an engaging family. Those attributes matter.

But if the president loses in November, which is now plausible, it will be because he fails to show enough appreciation for Americans who are making it economically. This is probably one reason only 41 percent of Americans think he's the best candidate to handle the economy's challenges, according to last week's *New York Times* poll. (Forty-nine percent think Mitt Romney would do a better job.)

Please, Obama's no socialist. Those who think he is are making the same mistake as did those who believed George W. Bush wasn't smart. They misread the man.

But the president keeps sending the wrong signals on this subject. The latest example is his ill-advised remark about government enabling businesses to succeed as a result of providing good teachers, building roads and inventing the Internet. Yes, government helps, but this emphasis on Washington over Main Street could haunt Obama.

This point was driven home by a guy I met on a recent vacation. He once leased yachts, but he said he lost that job because people with money began hiding out. They fear getting taxed too much.

Not in a million years do I think that guy—or many of his former customers—would vote for Obama. But his central point is one the president's re-election camp should consider: People with money fear what will happen to them under an administration that talks a lot about taking from its citizens rather than talking about helping them make it on their own. As a result, investors and corporations are largely sitting on the sidelines, not pumping up the economy with substantial investments.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported last week on how some upper-middle class voters in the swing state of Colorado view the president and his policies. What struck me was how those upper-middle classers who favored Obama in 2008 were waffling or leaving him because of his economic views. Said one frustrated 2008 backer:

"Obama never talks about us. He's not doing anything for people who are working hard and keeping the economy running. We're being punished for good behavior."

Regardless of whether you think those who invest and create jobs engage in good behavior, they do stimulate the economy. If Obama alienates too many of them, he not only will limit the economy's recovery, he will limit his chances.

Earlier this year in Dallas Jeb Bush summarized the divide this way: Is your emphasis on punishing those who have made it economically or on equipping people who aspire to a better life?

As with all bright line statements, there can be exceptions and nuance. But Bush was largely right.

Notice how much time the president spends talking about the Warren Buffett rule, about taxing the rich and about the greed of some Americans. He certainly hit those themes last December when he launched his "fighting populism" campaign during a Kansas speech.

Yes, the prosperous can mistakenly think they are entitled to every single dime of their wealth. And they can succumb to a false prosperity gospel: If you're making a ton, you must be good. They forget, as George H.W. Bush declared in his inaugural address, we are not the sum of our possessions.

Still, how one views economic success is a big dividing line this year. It's an undercurrent even within Democratic circles, surfacing when Democrats such as Newark Mayor Cory Booker were taken aback by Obama's anti-Bain advertising.

The president undeniably wants to see jobs created, and he knows it takes those with sufficient financial means to grow employment. But if he wants to get investors off the sidelines—not to mention help himself win re-election—he needs to start speaking in a way Main Street understands.

Tough life choices for today's young adults

By ANNE MICHAUD
Newsday

Anne Michaud is interactive editor for Newsday. *Her email address is anne.michaud@newsday.com.*

Entering adulthood used to be like wading into a gently sloping lake. You got your feet wet with a degree or job. Then maybe you found an apartment, and eventually a life partner. Soon, you were swimming in deep water.

But today, it feels as though the water gets deep fast. Young people can't just splash around and "find themselves" anymore. The world has changed.

Work can disappear with little warning. Skills grow obsolete fast. Lifetime employment and corporate loyalty are mostly things of the past. Compared to two decades ago, the average American worker puts in an extra 164 hours per year on the job, according to economist Juliet Schor. And adjusted for inflation, middle-class U.S. workers make less than they did in 1971.

These pressures mean that anyone who wants to "have it all"—career, family and leisure—needs to look way ahead. We parents would be wise to talk through the choices very explicitly with our children, especially the majority who are likely to want both work and kids.

We can explain the need for a sharply different perspective on career planning. For example, a friend of mine in her 20s who just got married says that she and others her age won't rely on working for an employer. The long hours and lack of security aren't worth it. Her plan is to run her own business and live frugally. Great idea; I hope for her sake it works out.

Another option is to choose an explicitly family-friendly career, something women have been doing for ages—a career with predictable hours and even some job security. Men increasingly are doing likewise; they make up ever more of our nurses, school teachers, bank tellers and food servers.

Even for the most ambitious, there are ways to craft a career that allows for more family time. A study of nearly 1,000 women who graduated from Harvard College between 1988 and 1991 showed that, 15 years after graduation, the ones who became doctors and lawyers had an easier time combining work and family than did those who later got an MBA. The doctors and lawyers had shifted to part-time work, opened their own practices with like-minded colleagues, or moved into the nonprofit sector or government work. The businesswomen, by contrast, faced an either-or choice: Put in grueling hours or quit.

Marissa Mayer, the new Yahoo chief executive, is an example. She's 37, will give birth this fall, and plans "a few weeks" of maternity leave during which she will continue to work. But if you want a different sort of work-family balance for yourself, then perhaps you shouldn't plan on following in her footsteps.

Stories about families working together to make hard choices are encouraging. Austrian tennis player Sybille Bammer, for example, had a child at 21 and quit competing. She went back to tennis after her life partner, and the child's father, became her coach, hitting partner and Mr. Mom. For a while, they lived on $500 a month.

Then there's Angela Braly, chief executive of health benefits giant WellPoint, whose husband left his family business for a more flexible schedule in real estate and teaching. They have three children.

How do we discuss the complexities of the modern balancing act without blunting our kids' ambitions? I can hear them mocking us now: Settle for the mommy track early, dear, and save yourself a lot of angst. But that's not the message. On the contrary, what's important is figuring out what you want and planning for it, precisely so you don't end up sidetracked.

Couples considering a family should talk openly about their expectations, too. You know the old saying: If you don't know where you're going, you're sure to get there.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

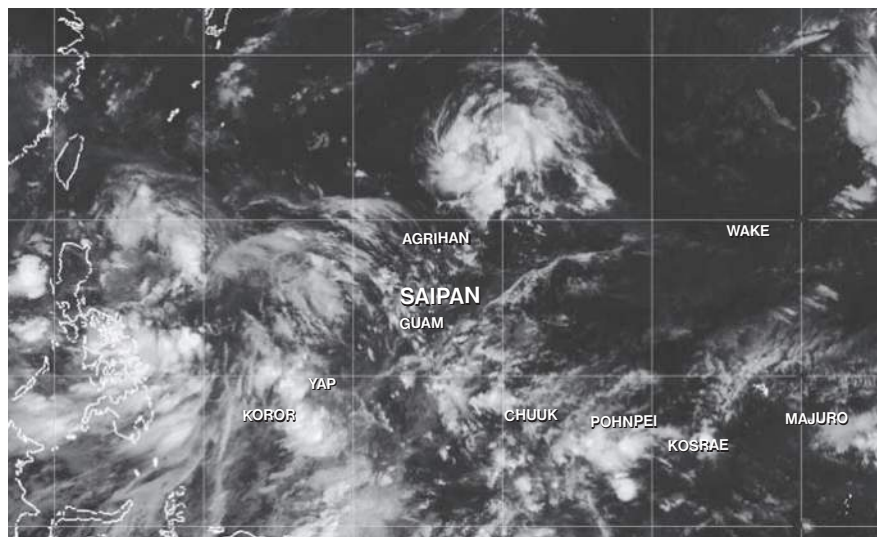
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲84	▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲57	▼55
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲88	▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼75
London	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲55	▼43
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼78
New York	Thundershowers	▲83	▼72
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼53
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Rome	Sunny	▲88	▼70
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼54
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲86	▼75
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲85	▼77
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲93	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough meanders southeastward from Luzon through a circulation centered northwest of Koror at 11N129E to end southwest of Pohnpei at 4N155E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between Koror and Yap within 100 miles of a line from 4N138E to 11N135E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of the trough axis or south of a line from 3N135E to 6N154E. Isolated thunderstorms are seen north of the trough over the Marianas and northwest of Chuuk within 250 miles of a line from 21N138E to 8N148E. An upper-level low is centered southwest of Minami Tori Shima at 21N149E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are found near this feature north of a line from 23N145E to 19N149E to 21N158E. Another upper-level low centered at 27N170E is triggering similar weather northeast of Wake Island or north of a line from 20N172E to 23N180. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae but south of Pohnpei between 2N and 7N from 154E to 164E and also near Majuro within 85 miles of a line from 7N173E to 4N177E to 7N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
10:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
5:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:59 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:04 PM	12:47 AM
Sunday	3:05 PM	1:43 AM
Monday	4:05 PM	2:43 AM
Tuesday	5:02 PM	3:44 AM
Wednesday	5:55 PM	4:45 AM

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Church 360
Suite 103 of Marianas Business Plaza (1st floor of former Nauru Building).
Contact www.church360saipan.org, info@church360saipan.org, or call 888-2116
Celebration Service: Sunday at 10:15am
Prayer Fellowship: Wednesday at 6:00pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 10:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Living Hope Church of the Nazarene
Isa Drive, I-Denni Hill across from Ponderosa Heights
Bible Studies for all ages: Sunday at 10:00 am
Worship: Sunday at 11:00 am
Pastor Dave Bucher, 256-1142

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 28, 1999

PSS to restrict school bus use
Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos said yesterday the Public School System considers minimizing its school bus operations by limiting the transportation service only to students who live long distance away from their schools. Inos said limiting the school bus use may be a more acceptable alternative to a proposal seeking to charge students for the ride. Board members Anthony Pellegrino and Marja Lee Taitano earlier proposed that PSS charge students 25 cents each per bus ride as a way of raising additional revenues for the education agency.

DOLI bars entry of PROC nationals
Labor and Immigration Sec. Mark Zachares yesterday issued fresh instructions to halt the issuance of new entry permits to all nationals from mainland China, following refusal and delay by Beijing to accept returning workers from the Northern Marianas. In a memorandum addressed to all airlines, labor and immigration offices and ports of entry, the DOLI chief also canceled Authorizations to Board or ATBs to PROC nationals, which means that airlines are prohibited from admitting passengers from China to bring onto the island. The order applies to all new entry permits, including new workers, replacement workers, tourists and short-term business, 90-day business, long-term business, special industry, students and immediate relatives.

July 28, 2000

New FTZ bill faces risk of veto again
Legislation creating free trade zones in the Northern Marianas is again at risk of getting vetoed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio as lawmakers have insisted on some provisions that he has found problematic when the proposal was first enacted last year. The House of Representatives yesterday accepted Senate amendment to HB 12-11 allowing mayors of Rota and Tinian control over public lands that can be designated as special economic sites, citing the need to expedite passage of the much-delayed measure. But this move was precisely the main concern raised by the administration when the original bill sponsored by Rep. Diego T. Benavente was disapproved as Mr. Tenorio believed it violates constitutional provisions granting such authority solely to Board of Public Lands.

DOF: CNMI's fiscal house now in order
More than two years since the Tenorio Administration inherited an enormous budget deficit amidst dropping government revenues, the Commonwealth's finance managers revealed the CNMI's fiscal house has been fixed although earnings continue to be lower compared with the 1997 level. Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen said the CNMI is starting to reap the fruits of measures installed since Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio assumed the gubernatorial seat in 1998, through stabilizing revenue collection and prompt release of tax refunds and rebates this year. She noted the administration's ability to restructure the government's overall spending, from close to $270 million in Fiscal Year 1997 to only about $207 in 1999, representing a drop of a little over $60 million.

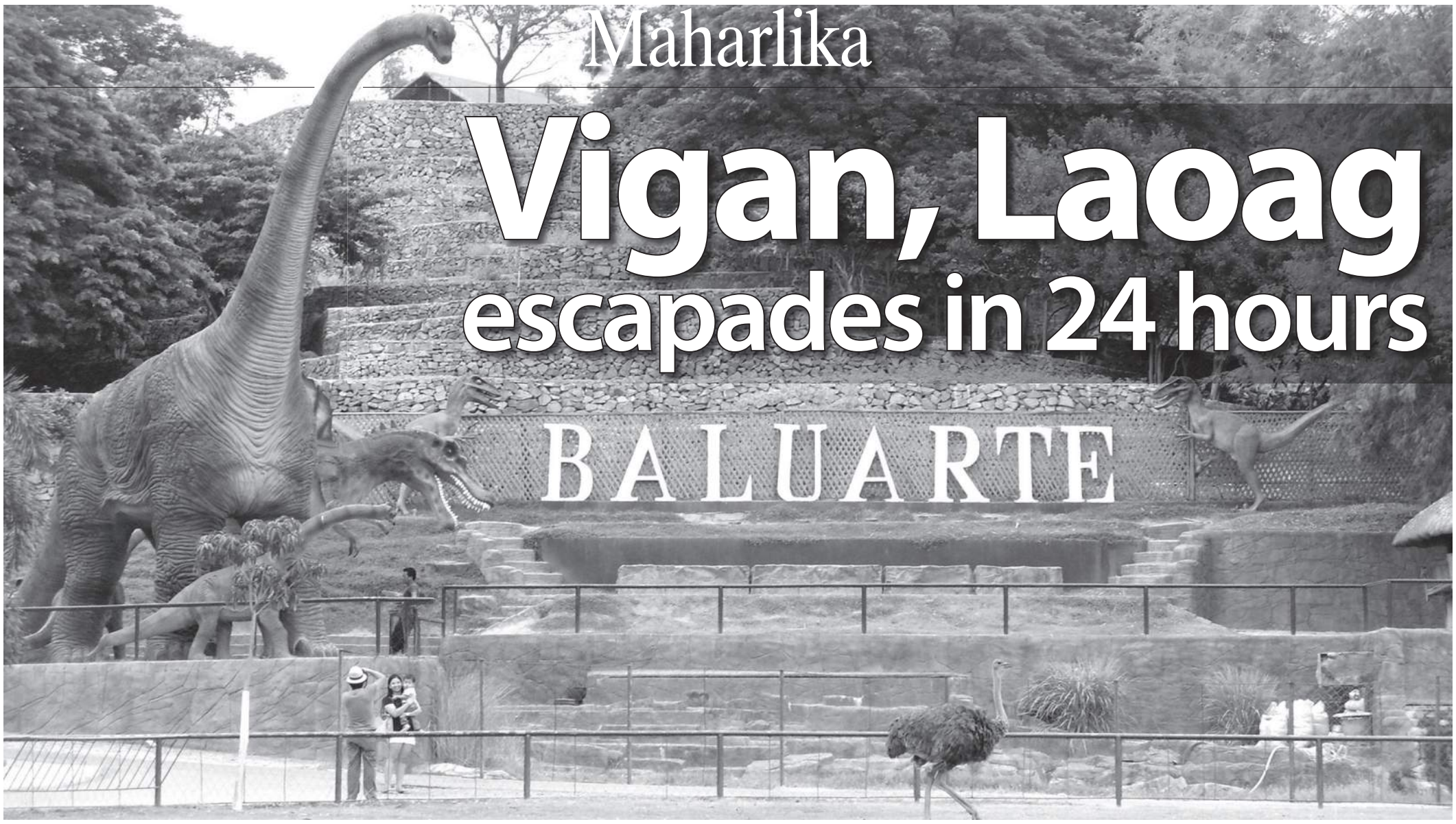
July 28, 2003

MPLA to OAG: Apologize, withdraw complaint
The Attorney General's Office must withdraw its complaint against the Marianas Public Lands Authority and issue a public apology by tomorrow over its recent decision to intervene for the Marianas Public Lands Trust in its pending lawsuit against the lands authority. This was the gist of a July 21, 2003, letter that MPLA's independent legal counsel Matthew Gregory wrote to the AGO on behalf of his client. "My client has asked me to request that you withdraw your complaint and apologize to MPLA in the press.We expect your office to withdraw its complaint and publish an apology by Tuesday, July 22, 2003, at 5pm," said Gregory in the letter that was addressed to assistant AG James Livingstone and Benjamin Sachs, who earlier joined MPLT as a co-plaintiff in its case against MPLA.

Prison financing bill is now law
A day after the Senate gave the thumbs-up to the sixth version of the Saipan prison financing measure, acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente signed the sixth version of the bill into law late Friday afternoon, ending months of political brinkmanship at the Legislature. The new law sets aside $2.5 million to complete the construction of the Commonwealth's prison facility and $2 million for the Rota and Tinian dialysis centers.

Maharlika

Vigan, Laoag escapades in 24 hours



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Life-size dinosaur statues, boulders, trees, and wild animals, such as this ostrich, bottom right, make for interesting backdrops for souvenir photos at "Baluarte ni Chavit Singson" in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

First of a two-part series

Travel back in time as you walk the historic town of Vigan's cobblestone streets or while riding a horse-drawn carriage (*calesa*), clip-clopping through ancestral houses that form part of the second greatest architectural legacy of the Spaniards in the Philippines after the walled city of Intramuros in Manila.

The difference is that in Vigan, many of the old houses still stand, becoming living museums of a spirited past. One can almost sense history in every corner, fascinating in every aspect.

Established in the 16th century, Vigan is the best preserved example of a planned Spanish colonial town in Asia and was inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1999.

To this day, no other town in the Philippines evokes old-world allure better than Vigan with its architecture that blends elements from elsewhere in the Philippines, China, and Europe. Vigan is in the province of Ilocos Sur in northern Luzon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Young visitors get to ride a small horse-drawn carriage to tour them around Baluarte ni Chavit Singson in Vigan.

Visiting Vigan's heritage village was among the highlights of a 24-hour Ilocandia escapade I spent with my mother, sister, and cousins while on a 10-day vacation months ago.

My mother, a native Ilocana from Isabela (the country's second largest province next to Palawan), said that stepping foot on Vigan was much more fun and awe-inspiring than just seeing it on TV or reading about it in travel magazines.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

My younger sister Hannah checks out samples of old earthenware jars stockpiled at the back of one of the potteries in Vigan.

We rented two *calesas* that took us on a tour of cobblestoned streets past ancestral houses, merchants, and residents, a scene reminiscent of the 16th century.

"Road trips. It's More Fun in the Philippines," goes the country's now world-renowned tourism slogan. Road trips using *calesa* is indeed much more fun than using a car to get you from point A to B. These horse-drawn carriages were the mode of transportation in olden times and even up to these days in certain parts of the country.

Vigan's ancestral homes, some of which were transformed into museums, bear "ancient tiled roofs, massive hardwood floorings, balustrades and azoteas in varying Spanish-Mexican-Chinese architectural styles," although some houses now need delicate care.

The ground floors of many of these houses were converted into cafes, restaurants, shops for souvenirs, wooden furniture, antiques and authentic Ilocano weaving in different kinds of "Abel" cloth.

Among those we visited was the Syquia Mansion on Quirino Boulevard, now a museum filled with exquisite centuries-old furniture and exhibits dedicated to the life of Vigan native Elpidio Quirino, the Philippines' sixth president. Quirino is best remembered as the chief architect of the economic development the country undertook to rise from World War II's devastation.

Quirino, born in the nearby provincial jail where his mother worked, rose to political prominence after marrying into the wealthy Syquia family. Thus the Syquia Mansion housing Qurino's extensive memorabilia is actually owned by his wife, Doña Alicia Quirino. Her ancestor was a Chinese man who made his fortune in trade in Vigan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A potter carefully crafts an earthenware jar with the aid of a potter's wheel in Pagburnayan, a pottery-making village in Vigan.

A statute of Leona Florentino, a Filipino poet in the Spanish and Ilocano languages, with signage announcing the gateway to Vigan's heritage town.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

What was "Sy Kia" became a hispanized "Syquia" later on. Visitors to the Syquia Mansion can view a portrait of "Sy Kia" with his braided long hair and traditional Chinese robes.

The Syquia Mansion, just like the other houses we visited in Vigan, offers an insight into how people lived back in the colonial era. The tour was a charming blast from the past. A caretaker of the Syquia family was always around to accompany visitors. He gave us important and intriguing details.

It was where our "all girls" group got a picture of the term "aliping sagigilid," derived from that extra space—about an arm's length—between grand rooms and exterior walls where house helpers during colonial times could go from one room to the other without being seen by visitors.

Do not pass up the chance to look through the peepholes found in the master's bedroom and the second floor. These peepholes were used to view visitors in the receiving area

See VIGAN on Next Page

Indonesian forest savior among Magsaysay winners

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An Indonesian mountaineer who faced death threats while battling illegal loggers and a Bangladeshi lawyer who fought to keep old, rusty ships from being dumped in her homeland were named recipients of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards on Thursday.

This year's six honorees battled great odds to improve the plight of the poor in forest communities, farmlands and exploitative industries, the Manila-based foundation in charge of the awards said.

The awards honoring people in Asia who have changed their societies for the better are named after a Philippine president who died in a plane crash in 1957. Each recipient will receive a certificate, a medal and a $50,000 prize.

They were "all deeply involved in creating sustainable solutions to poverty and its accompanying disempowerment," foundation president Carmencita Abella said in a statement.

Indonesian mountaineer Ambrosius Ruwindrijarto organized a group called Telapak in the 1990s to carry out undercover investigations of his country's lucrative logging concessions.

With the help of a U.K.-based environmental group, he helped expose illegal logging and smuggling activities that sparked public outrage and pressured Indonesia to tighten regulations on timber trade. He was threatened with death, assaulted and once detained by a timber company in central Kalimantan but was not deterred, according to the foundation.

His group also helped villagers organize logging cooperatives to sustainably manage more than 200,000 hectares (494,200 acres) of forest.

Lawyer Syeda Rizwana Hasan waged court battles with her legal group to stop old ships decommissioned by wealthy nations from entering Bangladesh to be dismantled as scrap, unless they have been decontaminated at their origin. Thousands of poor workers, many of them children, work in dangerous conditions in the junk yards.

"Few cases of social inequity are as stark and dramatic" as those handled by Hasan, the foundation said.

Another prize winner, Kulandei Francis of India, organized poor women to create the Integrated Village Development Project in remote Krishnagiri district.

The group organized savings and credit groups that received preferential treatment from banks. More than 150,000 poor members benefited from multi-million-dollar savings and loans that helped fund health, housing and sanitation projects, including a school for tribal children.

Other winners include Filipino agricultural scientist Romulo Davide, whose research led to the development of a biological product used to control pests attacking vegetables, banana, potato, citrus, rice and other crops.

Chen Shu-chu, who sells vegetables at a market stall in Taitung city in southeastern Taiwan, lives a frugal life—eating only two meals a day—enabling her to give 7 million Taiwanese dollars ($320,000) to charities for the care and education of poor children. Inspiration for her philanthropy came years before, when her schoolmates launched a fund drive to help her poor family afford treatment for a sick brother.

"The aid was not enough to save her brother's life," the foundation said. "But the memory of that kindness stayed with her."

A prize winner from Cambodia, agricultural expert Yang Saing Koma, helped his poor Southeast Asian country dramatically increase its rice production by encouraging small farmers to shift to organic fertilizer.

Blind Chinese activist Chen Guangcheng won the award, regarded as Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize, in 2007. Unable to travel to Manila at the time, his wife, Yuan Weijing, attempted to fly to Manila to receive the award on his behalf but her passport and phone were confiscated at the Beijing airport.

Chen and his wife are living now in the United States, where he is studying.

SUPER YACHT AP

A statue of a sailor is seen on the foreground as the $15 million futuristic yacht Adastra launched in China this year for a Hong Kong billionaire is docked in Manila Harbor, Philippines, Friday, June 29, 2012 Philippines. The 42.5 meter (140-foot)-long elongated luxury yacht, made of carbon fiber and kevlar to make it extra light, was designed by Australian boat builder McConaghy for Hong Kong shipping magnate Anthony Marder.

COMMENTARY

An unfulfilled promise

By JOSE L. CUISIA JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is the statement of Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Jose L. Cuisia Jr. on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the military order of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt placing the Philippine Commonwealth Army under the U.S. Army.

Under and by virtue of the authority vested in me … as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, I hereby call and order into the service of the armed forces of the United States for the period of the existing emergency… all of the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt, July 26, 1941

With these words and as war clouds loomed in the Pacific, members of the Philippine Commonwealth forces were conscripted into the service of the U.S. Armed Forces. Hundreds of thousands faithfully followed President Roosevelt's order and fought under the command of General MacArthur in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Far Eeast and in guerilla units organized and commanded by U.S. Army Officers. A day later on July 27 Gen. MacArthur issued General Order Number 1 assuming command of all U.S. forces in the Far East including all forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines.

On Dec. 28, 1941, twenty days after the Pacific war started, President Roosevelt exhorted the Filipinos with these words: *In this great struggle of the Pacific the loyal Americans of the Philippine Islands are called upon to play a crucial role… I count on every Philippine man, woman, and child to do his duty. We will do ours.*

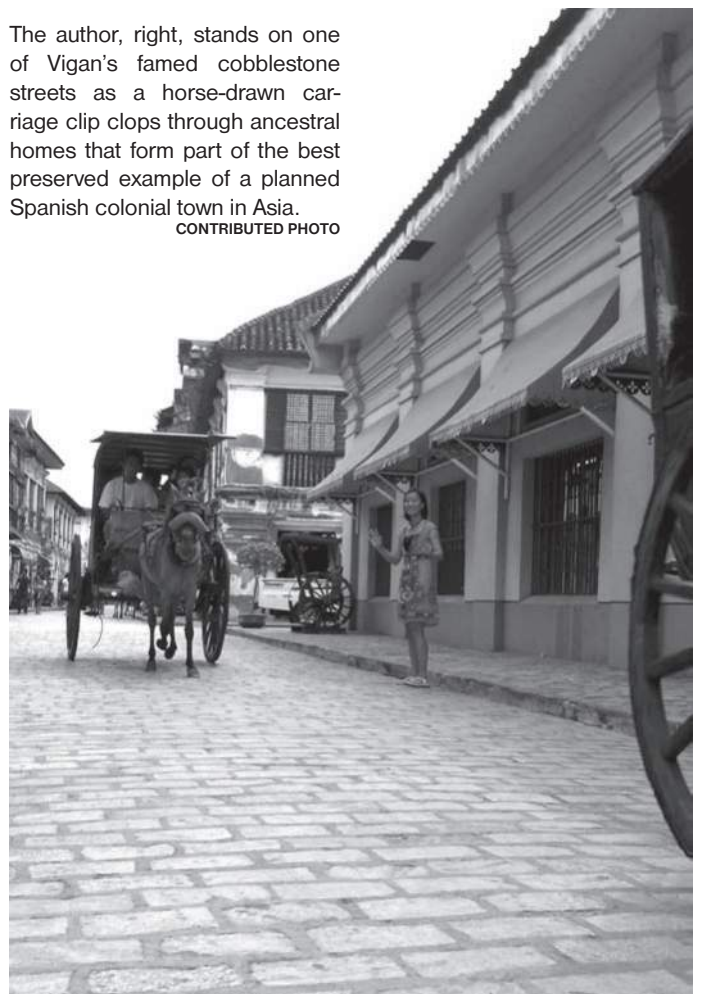
Three months of hostilities following the attack by Japanese forces in Dec. 8, 1941, thousands were killed, wounded, and subjected to the brutal Death March alongside their American comrades. It is estimated that about one million Filipinos died, mostly non-combatants, in the three years of Japanese occupation.

After the war, the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 79-301 (Rescission Act of 1946) that stripped Filipino veterans benefits due them for their military service during the war. Despite objections by the Philippine government and the veterans the law remained.

Through the years the U.S. government had given small and piecemeal benefits to the Filipino veterans but they continue to fight and hope for the restoration of the recognition and benefits that the Rescission Act of 1946 had removed. They have been waging this campaign for 66 years. Their latest struggle is to get certification from the National Personnel Records Center to avail of the one-time lump sum under the Filipino Veterans Compensation Fund.

As we commemorate the 71st anniversary of the military order of President Roosevelt let us remember these gallant soldiers who unselfishly heeded the call to military service doing their job to the best of their abilities. They did their duties but the promise made to them went unfulfilled.

The author, right, stands on one of Vigan's famed cobblestone streets as a horse-drawn carriage clip clops through ancestral homes that form part of the best preserved example of a planned Spanish colonial town in Asia.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



VIGAN

From Page 10

before they are allowed to enter the grand living room. The Syquia Mansion tour is free, but donations are welcome.

Lunch was at Grandpa's Inn, also a Spanish ancestral home converted into a cozy hotel with a rustic ambiance and hearty food.

Take a stroll at the Plaza Salcedo where the provincial capitol is located, along with St. Paul's Cathedral and El Arzobispado de Nueva Segovia. Also check out the Crisologo Museum, Café Leonora, and Padre José Burgos National Museum.

Remember Demi Moore's pottery scene in the movie *Ghost*? You can be your own Demi Moore, or even Patrick Swayze, in any of the potteries in a village called "Pagburnayan," which literally means "place where 'burnay' is made." "Burnay" is an earthenware jar crafted by a potter's hands with the aid of a potter's wheel.

Here, the pottery process uses fine sand as a tempering material and fired at high temperatures in a huge brick-and-clay ground kiln, making it harder and more durable than other terra cotta.

"Baluarte ni Chavit Singson," owned by Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, was another stop that day. There is no entrance fee to this sprawling 80-hectare expanse of boulders and mountain sides amidst trees and greens, serving as an interactive sanctuary for Singson's personal collection of wild animals like tigers, camels, ostriches, snakes, donkeys, stags, pheasants, parrots, and macaws, among other things.

You can pet and feed most of the animals. You can also get to ride small horses that will tour you around the zoo. Life-size dinosaur statues make for interesting backdrops for souvenir photos.

Ilocos Sur is also the birthplace of national heroes, including Diego Silang and his brave wife Gabriela Silang, and Padre Jose Burgos of the famed GomBurZa.

If you have more than 24 hours to spare, other interesting stops in Ilocos Sur should include the centuries-old Sta. Maria Church, a National Landmark, which was used as a fortress during the Philippine Revolution of 1896; Tirad Pass, declared a National Shrine, that had been the last stand of the Filipino Revolutionary Forces under Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo during the same period; and Bessang Pass, which served as the backdoor to General Yamashita's last-ditch defense during the final stage of World War II.

A packed one-day, one-night Ilocandia escapade isn't complete without sampling Ilocano cuisine—the legendary pinakbet, dinengdeng, Ilocos empanada, Ilocos longganisa, among other gastronomical delights—but more on this in the second part of this series.

To be concluded.

Samut' Sari

BEACH CLEANUP
Shirley's Coffee Shop and Restaurant employees and their families pick up trash behind the Aquarius Hotel in Susupe on July 25, 2012, as part of the company's quarterly beach cleanup.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The staff of Shirley's Coffee Shop and Restaurant pose with family members and friends after the company's quarterly beach cleanup behind the Aquarius Hotel in Susupe on July 25, 2012.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COURTESY CALL
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan and Guam delegates of the 7th North American Ambassadors, Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour have their picture taken with Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III at the Rizal Hall of the Malacañang Palace on July 13, 2012, after a courtesy call. Also in attendance were Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr. and Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Jose Cuisia. Among the delegates are Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, front row, second from right; and second row, right to left, Jacqueline Gordon, Maria Clarissa Joy, Eden Guillo, Maria Glenda Nonato; Estrella Mendiola, behind President Aquino; and Mark Cooper, third row, second to the right.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy birthday greetings go out to Kimberly M. Camacho and Angela DLC. Cabrera! Wishing you both good health, happiness, and success in all your dreams. May you both be blessed with many more birthdays to come. Much love, hugs and kisses coming from your kiddos (Kai'po Francisco M. Camacho and Mikyla Skye Cabrera).
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INFORMATION SESSION
NMC
Northern Marianas College Liberal Arts program coordinator and instructor Velma Deleon Guerrero, far right, answers participants' questions during the college's information session held last Wednesday, July 25, 2012.

COMMENDATION
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
G4S Secure Solution (CNMI) Inc. lifeguards Norbert Camacho, Hermoso Angel, and Shahadot Hossain are recognized by their client's management for their professional response during emergencies. They are shown here after being presented with their certificates of appreciation by G4S CNMI branch manager Moises K. Pangelinan and operation manager Kathy Casil.

Business

Few think sluggish US economy will strengthen soon

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—A U.S. economy that plodded along in the first three months of the year likely grew even less in the April-June quarter. And most economists no longer think growth will strengthen much in the second half of 2012.

Weaker hiring, nervous consumers, sluggish manufacturing and the overhang of Europe's debt crisis might be pointing toward everyone's big fear: another recession.

Against that background, the government on Friday will issue its first of three estimates of how much the U.S. economy expanded last quarter. The consensus forecast is that growth slowed to an annual rate of 1.5 percent, according to a survey of economists by data firm FactSet. The Commerce Department will issue the estimate at 8:30 a.m. EDT.

A quarterly growth rate of 1.5 percent would be the weakest in a year. It would follow a meager 1.9 percent rate in the first three months of 2012.

Much more growth would be needed to fuel stronger hiring. Economists generally say even 2 percent annual growth would add only about 90,000 jobs a month. That's too few to drive down the unemployment rate, which is stuck at 8.2 percent.

The U.S. economy has never been so sluggish this long into a recovery. The Great Recession officially ended in June 2009.

Until a few weeks ago, many economists had been predicting that growth would accelerate in the final six months of the year. They pointed to gains in manufacturing, home and auto sales and lower gas prices.

But threats to the U.S. economy have left consumers—who account for about 70 percent of the economy—too anxious to spend freely. Jobs are tight. Pay isn't keeping up with inflation. Retail sales fell in June for a third straight month. Manufacturing has weakened in most areas of the country.

Fear is also growing that the economy will fall off a "fiscal cliff" at year's end. That's when tax increases and deep spending cuts will take effect unless Congress reaches a budget agreement.

All that is making companies reluctant to expand and hire much.

From April through June, U.S. job growth slowed to 75,000 a month, down from a healthy 226,000 average in the first three months of the year.

"The European situation has been getting worse and is dragging down the global economy," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University. "And we have got the fiscal cliff to worry about in the United States."

Six of the 17 countries that use the euro currency are in recession. Growth has also weakened in powerhouse emerging markets in China, India and Brazil. With these economies slowing, so is their demand for U.S. exports.

Sohn estimates the likelihood of a U.S. recession within the next 12 months at 30 percent to 35 percent. That's up from his estimate of 20 percent six months ago.

The economy and jobs

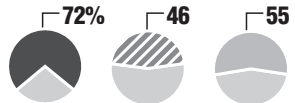
ELECTION 2012

Most Americans think the economy and the job situation are top priorities, but they differ widely along partisan lines about the government's role in solving these problems.

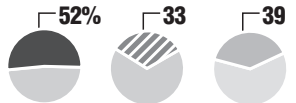
Democrats | Republicans | Independents

Government's function

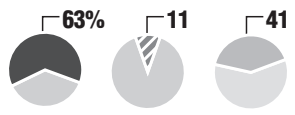
• Eight-six percent of registered voters say the economy is a top concern; percent who say economic problems should mostly be solved by government



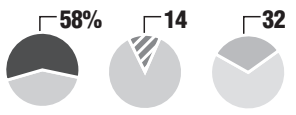
• Eight-two percent say jobs are top concern; percent who say job needs should be solved mostly by the government



Government should regulate business/economy more ...

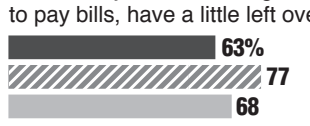


... and should use tax money to help avoid foreclosures

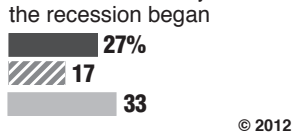


Personal situation

Percent who say they live comfortably or have enough to pay bills, have a little left over



Percent who lost a job since the recession began



© 2012 MCT
Source: McClatchy-Marist poll of 1,023 registered voters, June 18-26, 2012; margin of error: +/-3.5 percentage points
Graphic: Pat Carr

Soda companies racing for a new sweet spot

NEW YORK (AP)—Coke and Pepsi are chasing after the sweet spot: a soda with no calories, no artificial sweeteners and no funny aftertaste.

The world's top soft drink companies hope that's the elusive trifecta that will silence health concerns about soda and reverse the decline in consumption of carbonated drinks. But such a formula could be years away.

That's because the ingredient that makes soda taste good is also what packs on the pounds: high-fructose corn syrup. Artificial sweeteners like aspartame that are used in diet drinks don't have any calories but are seen as processed and fake. Natural sweeteners that come from plants present the most promising alternative, but companies haven't yet figured out how to mask their metallic aftertaste.

Despite the complexities, soft drink makers push on in their search.

"I can't say when it will be here, but it's in the reasonable future," said Al Carey, who heads the beverage unit for the Americas at PepsiCo Inc., the world's No. 2 soda maker.

There's good reason that soft drink makers are so eager to tweak their formulas. Once a beloved American treat, sodas are now being blamed for the nation's bulging waistlines—two-thirds of the country's adults are overweight or obese, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That, coupled with the growing variety of flavored waters and sports drinks, has sent per capita soda consumption down 17 percent to about 1.3 cans a day since its peak in 1998, according to data from Beverage Digest, an industry tracker.

In New York City, a ban on the sale of sugary drinks bigger than 16 ounces in restaurants, theaters and stadiums could take effect as early as March. The mayor of Cambridge, Mass., proposed a similar ban last month. And in Richmond, Calif., voters will decide in November whether to pass the nation's first penny-per-ounce tax on soda and other sugary drinks such as fruit juices and teas.

All the negative publicity has some once-faithful soda drinkers cutting back. Krista Koster, a 29-year-old who lives in Washington D.C., used to down about two cans of soda a day. Now she's trying to kick the habit and be more conscious about what she drinks.

Report shows US drought rapidly intensifying

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The widest drought to grip the United States in decades is getting worse with no signs of abating, a new report warned Thursday, as state officials urged conservation and more ranchers considered selling cattle.

The drought covering two-thirds of the continental U.S. had been considered relatively shallow, the product of months without rain, rather than years. But Thursday's report showed its intensity is rapidly increasing, with 20 percent of the nation now in the two worst stages of drought - up 7 percent from last week.

The U.S. Drought Monitor classifies drought in various stages, from moderate to severe, extreme and, ultimately, exceptional. Five states - Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska - are blanketed by a drought that is severe or worse. States like Arkansas and Oklahoma are nearly as bad, with most areas covered in a severe drought and large portions in extreme or exceptional drought.

Other states are seeing conditions rapidly worsen. Illinois - a key producer of corn and soybeans - saw its percentage of land in extreme or exceptional drought balloon from just 8 percent last week to roughly 71 percent as of Thursday, the Drought Monitor reported.

AP

In a Monday, July 23, 2012 file photo, an under-developed ear of corn lies in a field south of Blair, Neb., after the drought-damaged field was cut down for silage.

And conditions are not expected to get better, with little rain and more intense heat forecast for the rest of the summer.

"Some of these areas that are picking up a shower here and there, but it's not really improving anything because the heat has been so persistent in recent weeks, the damage already is done," said Brian Fuchs, a climatologist at the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. "Realistically, the forecast going forward is a continuation of warm, dry conditions through the end of August easily, and we may see them in the fall."

Some are reacting to the drought with inventiveness. At Lake DePue in Illinois, the dangerously low water level threatened to doom an annual boat race that's a big fundraiser for the community. Hundreds of volunteers joined forces and built a makeshift dam out of sandbags before hundreds of millions of gallons of water were pumped in from a river. By Wednesday, the effort had added 2 feet to the water level, doubling the lake's size and saving the race.

In other areas, communities are instituting water restrictions and asking people to voluntarily conserve.

The drought stretches from Ohio west to California and runs from Texas north to the Dakotas. Only in the 1930s and the 1950s has a drought covered more of the U.S., according to National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,887.93	1,360.02	2,893.25
211.88	22.13	39.01
+1.67%	+1.65%	+1.37%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9597	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7574	Philippine Peso	41.986
British Pound	0.6378	Indian Rupee	55.44	Singapore Dollar	1.2517
Canadian Dollar	1.008	Indonesian Rupiah	9487.75	South Korean Won	1139.15
Chinese Yuan	6.3781	Japanese Yen	78.2355	Swiss Franc	0.9774
Euro	0.8138	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1573	Taiwan Dollar	30.0823
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2462	Thailand Baht	31.6

Nation

White House makes clear: No push for new gun laws

By BEN FELLER
AP WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama will not push for stricter gun laws this election year, the White House said Thursday, one day after his impassioned remarks about the need to keep assault weapons off the streets suggested he may plunge into that political fight and challenge Congress to act.

Instead, Obama's stand on the government's role ended up right where it was after the mass shooting in Colorado last week: Enforce existing law better.

That is same view held by his Republican opponent, Mitt Romney, as both reach for broader and more politically appealing ways to keep guns away from killers.

Obama still wants Congress to reinstitute a federal ban on military-style assault weapons that lapsed years ago, his spokesman Jay Carney said. But the president is not and has not been pushing for that ban, a nod to the politics of gun control.

There is no interest among many lawmakers of both parties to take on the divisive matter. Especially not with an election in just over 100 days.

Sealing the matter, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Thursday the Senate's schedule is too packed to even have a debate on gun control.

Asked if the Senate might debate the issue next year, Reid said, "Nice try."

Public opinion has shifted away from tighter gun control. Twenty years ago, polls showed that a substantial majority supported stricter limits on guns. Now Americans appear evenly divided. Nearly every statement on the matter from Romney and Obama includes reminders that they stand by the Second Amendment.

From the White House, Carney said: "There are things that we can do short of legislation and short of gun laws."

The lack of legislation reflects that reality, too: Police say laws and background checks are often futile in keeping someone with horrifying intent from executing a massacre. Authorities say the suspect in the Aurora, Colo., shootings broke no laws when he purchased the guns he is accused of using, and he passed the required background checks.

AP

President Barack Obama meets with members of his cabinet in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, July, 26, 2012. From left are, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Secreatry of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, the president and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta.

Sandusky shower abuse accuser to sue Penn State

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—For months, the identity of the boy who was sexually assaulted in the locker room showers by Jerry Sandusky was one of the biggest mysteries of the Penn State scandal. Now, for the first time, a man has come forward to claim he was that boy, and is threatening to sue the university.

The man's lawyers said Thursday they have done an extensive investigation and gathered "overwhelming evidence" on details of the abuse by Sandusky, the former assistant football coach convicted of using his position at Penn State and as head of a youth charity to molest boys over a period of 15 years.

Jurors convicted Sandusky last month of offenses related to so-called Victim 2 largely on the testimony of Mike McQueary, who was a team graduate assistant and described seeing the attack.

"Our client has to live the rest of his life not only dealing with the effects of Sandusky's childhood sexual abuse, but also with the knowledge that many powerful adults, including those at the highest levels of Penn State, put their own interests and the interests of a child predator above their legal obligations to protect him," the lawyers said in a news release.

They did not name their client, and The Associated Press generally does not identify victims of sex crimes without their consent.

The university said it was taking the case seriously but would not comment on pending litigation.

University President Rodney Erickson and the board of trustees "have publicly emphasized that their goal is to find solutions that rest on the principle of justice for the victims," a school spokesman said.

The statement from the man's attorneys said Victim 2 suffered "extensive sexual abuse over many years both before and after the 2001 incident Michael McQueary witnessed."

McQueary testified in December at a hearing that he had seen Sandusky and a boy, both naked, in a team shower after hearing skin-on-skin slapping sounds.

"I would have described that it was extremely sexual and I thought that some kind of intercourse was going on," McQueary said.

Romney stirs Olympic tiff as European tour begins

LONDON (AP)—Mitt Romney wanted to highlight U.S.-British bonds—and show off his diplomatic skills to boot—but he managed to rankle the Olympic hosts instead, from Prime Minister David Cameron on down.

The Republican presidential candidate, taking a turn on the world stage, called London's problems with Olympic Games preparation "disconcerting." That prompted Cameron to retort on Thursday that doubters would "see beyond doubt that Britain can deliver." And London Mayor Boris Johnson told tens of thousands gathered in Hyde Park: "There's a guy called Mitt Romney who wants to know if we are ready. Are we ready? Yes we are!"

Romney

Amid the uproar, Romney tried to back off his critique, finally concluding, "I expect the games to be highly successful."

Romney also caused a stir with his attendance at a fundraiser with banking executives tainted by a British interest rate-fixing scandal. And he inadvertently disclosed that he held a secret meeting with the head of Britain's intelligence service.

The bobbles threatened to undermine Romney's first international tour as the man who would replace Democratic President Barack Obama.

A one-term Massachusetts governor with limited foreign policy experience, he is hoping to show voters back home that he is ready to represent the U.S. strongly and smoothly at a time of global economic turmoil and security troubles. He also wants to emphasize his own tenure running the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City by attending this year's opening ceremonies. And he hopes to draw subtle contrasts with Obama.

"I'm looking forward to the bust of Winston Churchill being in the Oval Office again," Romney told donors at a fundraiser, Obama's administration sent back to Britain a bust of Churchill that once sat in the Oval Office. Obama aides say it was scheduled to be returned.

All in all, though, it was a shaky start to Romney's planned weeklong trip overseas that will include Israel and Poland after England.

As he met with British leaders past and present, Romney sought to keep the focus on the close alliance between America and Britain, praising "the unique relationship that exists between our nations, our commitment to common values, our commitment to peace in the world and a desire to see a stronger and growing economy."

But he may have ended up straining his own relationship with the British—and embarrassing them—by questioning whether the country could host a flawless Olympics after years of preparation.

England has constructed an enormous Olympic Park in East London, will showcase tennis at Wimbledon, is hosting soccer in Glasgow in Scotland and has even built a volleyball court behind No. 10 Downing Street, where Romney met with Cameron. Yet, the country has faced steady media coverage of things that have gone wrong: A security firm didn't hire enough people; problems at immigration threatened security risks.

ACROSS THE NATION

US report says Iraq 'rebuilders' died by hundreds

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the first tally of its kind, a federal investigative agency has calculated that at least 719 people, nearly half of them Americans, were killed working on projects to rebuild Iraq following the U.S. invasion in 2003. The toll represents an aspect of the Iraq war that is rarely brought to public attention, overshadowed by the much higher number killed in combat as well as the billions of taxpayer dollars squandered on reconstruction. There is no confirmed total number of Iraq war deaths. The U.S. military lost 4,488 in Iraq, and its allies a little over 300. The number of Iraq deaths has not been established but is thought to exceed 100,000. The actual number of people killed doing reconstruction work is probably much higher than 719 but cannot be reliably determined, the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction said in releasing its estimate Friday.

Suspect in hepatitis C outbreak was fired in Ariz.

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—A dozen hospitals in seven states are scrambling to identify people who might have been infected with hepatitis C by a traveling medical technician who was charged a week ago with causing an outbreak in New Hampshire. With details of David Kwiatkowski's resume still emerging, a hospital official in Arizona said he had been fired from her facility in April 2010, after he was found unresponsive in a men's locker room with syringes and needles. Kwiatkowski was treated at the hospital, and tests showed he had cocaine and marijuana in his system, said Monica Bowman, chief executive officer of the Arizona Heart Hospital. Kwiatkowski, 33, is accused of stealing anesthetic drugs from Exeter Hospital in New Hampshire and contaminating syringes used on patients. His same strain of hepatitis C, a blood-borne viral infection that can cause liver disease and chronic health issues, has been diagnosed in 30 of the patients.

Poll: Few think Romney's faith resembles their own

WASHINGTON (AP)—Most of America doesn't relate to Mitt Romney's religion but that may not matter in his race against President Barack Obama. Those are the findings of a new Pew Research Center poll released Thursday, about a month before Republican Romney is set to become the first Mormon presidential nominee of a major political party. Misgivings about the Mormon faith are widespread and persistent. Nearly two-thirds of non-Mormons said they see Romney's faith as very different from their own while just half consider it a Christian faith. Those numbers are little changed since Romney's first run for the presidency pushed Mormonism to the political forefront in 2007. Despite those qualms, most voters who know that Romney is a devout Mormon say they are comfortable with his religious beliefs.

Fake doctor charged in buttocks injection death

MIAMI (AP)—A South Florida woman posing as a doctor was arrested Thursday and charged in the death of a woman who died after authorities said her body was pumped with unknown toxic substances during a buttocks-enhancement surgery. Shatarka Nuby, a 31-year-old mother, paid a woman known as "Dutchess" hundreds of dollars to come to her house and inject her buttocks, hips, thighs and breasts with an unknown substance. The Dutchess, whose real name is Oneal Morris, sometimes wore medical scrubs and a stethoscope. She allegedly sealed Nuby's injections with super glue and cotton balls, according to Broward County Sheriff's deputies. Nuby told friends the injections became hard and hot and that her skin turned black. She wrote a letter to Department of Health investigators before her death in March in Tallahassee. An assistant medical examiner said she suffered "massive systemic silicone migration" from the injections, according to a release from the sheriff's office.

Asia

Chinese politician Bo's wife charged with murder

BEIJING (AP)—Prosecutors have charged the wife of ousted Chinese politician Bo Xilai and a family aide with the murder of a British businessman, the government said Thursday, pushing ahead a case at the center of a messy political scandal that unsettled China's leadership ahead of a delicate power transition.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency reported that the recently issued indictment said Bo's wife, Gu Kailai, had a falling out with Briton Neil Heywood over money and worried that it would threaten her and her son's safety. Gu and the aide, Zhang Xiaojun, are alleged to have poisoned Heywood together, the report said. Heywood's death in November was attributed initially to a heart attack or excessive drinking.

The brief report is the first official news that the case against Gu is proceeding since the announcement three months ago that she and Zhang were being investigated and that Bo was being suspended from the powerful Politburo for unspecified discipline violations. Unmentioned in the Xinhua report was any reference to Bo or a separate party investigation into him.

"To charge a Politburo member if he was involved in any way in the murder would have sullied the reputation of the Communist Party in ways that would have been too much for the leadership to handle," said Joseph Fewsmith, a China politics expert at Boston University.

Bo's ouster and the investigation into his family presented the Communist Party leadership with its ugliest public scandal in nearly two decades. It exposed the bare-knuckled infighting that the secretive leadership prefers to hide and affirmed an already skeptical public's dim view about corrupt dealings in the party.

News of Gu's prosecution signals that the leadership has closed ranks and reached a general agreement about the case as well as arrangements to install a younger group of leaders at a party congress later this year.

"They have to try to show solidarity, because if they do not do that the consequences are alarming. It would undermine social stability" by sending a signal about divisions in the ranks, said Cheng Li, an elite politics expert at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

AP

In this Jan. 17, 2007 file photo, former Chongqing Communist Party Secretary Bo Xilai, right, accompanied by his wife Gu Kailai, attends a funeral for his father in Beijing.

By making the announcement on the eve of the London Olympics, the leadership also likely hopes that public attention will be absorbed watching the Chinese team, instead of circulating political gossip, said Li. Given that the congress is still unscheduled and likely several months away, the leadership has time to dispatch Gu's and Bo's cases and allow public interest to flag in the interim, Li and others said.

In a sign that the release of the news was carefully managed, the Xinhua's report was read on state television and posted on official mainstream news sites. But it appeared to have been scrubbed off popular microblogs, where Bo and his wife's names remain banned search terms. Commenting was disabled on most sites that carried the Xinhua report, while other webpages only allowed comments in support of the prosecution.

Before his fall, Bo was one of China's most powerful and charismatic politicians. The son of a revolutionary veteran and party secretary of the Austria-sized metropolitan area of Chongqing, he was thought to be destined for a seat in the leadership's inner sanctum, the Politburo Standing Committee.

On his rise, Bo led high-profile campaigns to bust organized crime and to promote communist culture. In doing so, however, his administration ran roughshod over civil liberties that angered some leaders and alienated others with his publicity seeking.

The infighting may never have come to light, as has happened in previous leadership fights, except for the sudden flight to the U.S. Consulate in Chengdu of longtime Bo aide and former Chongqing police chief Wang Lijun in February. Apparently fearing for his safety if he remained in Chongqing, Wang told American diplomats about his suspicions that Heywood had been murdered and that Bo's family was involved.

The Xinhua report did not say when Gu's trial would be held. She and Zhang were charged in the eastern city of Hefei, far from both Beijing and Chongqing, where Heywood was found dead. Prosecutors have interrogated Gu and Zhang and have "heard the opinions" of their defense lawyers, Xinhua said.

The report also did not say when the indictment was issued or give details about the crime other than that Heywood was poisoned. It referred to Bo's wife as "Bogu Kailai," an unexplained combining of their surnames. It did not name their son, but they have only one, Bo Guagua. A graduate of Oxford University and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, the younger Bo has become a notorious symbol among Chinese of the privilege of the elite.

Xinhua, however, made clear the government considers the verdict a foregone conclusion. "The facts of the two defendants' crime are clear, and the evidence is irrefutable and substantial. Therefore, the two defendants should be charged with intentional homicide," the report said.

Philippine army clashes with Abu Sayyaf; 16 killed

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Day-long clashes between Al Qaida-linked Muslim militants and Philippine troops on a southern island killed 12 army soldiers and four rebels, the military said Friday. It was one of the bloodiest days in recent weeks in the volatile south.

The violence started early Thursday when soldiers attacked an Abu Sayyaf encampment on Basilan Island's Sumisip township. The battle left eight government troops and four rebels dead, Army Maj. Gen. Ricardo Rainier Cruz said.

The army sent more troops and sporadic fighting continued until the afternoon.

Later in the day, the Abu Sayyaf militants fired at an army outpost in the same township, said Capt. Albert Caber, a military spokesman. They then separately ambushed two groups of troops sent to back up the forces there.

No one was killed at the outpost, but four reinforcement troops were killed en route to the area, Caber said.

At least three soldiers and two rebels also were wounded in Thursday's clashes.

Officials said the militants belonged to the same group that ambushed a truckload of rubber plantation workers in Sumisip two weeks ago. Five farm workers and one government militiaman were killed in that attack, while 22 others were wounded.

On Wednesday, the same group of militants attacked a military detachment providing security for the rubber planters' cooperative, but no soldier was killed or hurt, officials added.

Violence in the southern Philippines continues despite efforts by U.S.-trained Philippine forces to put an end to decades of bombings and ransom kidnappings by Muslim extremists in the predominantly Christian nation.

The Abu Sayyaf has received funding and training from al-Qaida and is on a U.S. list of terrorist organizations.

Philippine offensives have weakened the militants, but they remain a threat. They are holding several foreign hostages, apparently to raise ransom money to buy food and weapons.

ASIAN BRIEFS

North and South Korea mark war armistice

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AP)—Ceremonies commemorating the Korean War armistice are under special scrutiny this year because of North Korea's military reshuffling and its young leader's newly-introduced wife. Observances Friday in both North and South Korea follow Kim Jong Un's surprise dismissal of his military chief and his revelation that the mystery woman at his side in public appearances this month is his wife. The military moves are seen as an effort to build loyalty among the million-man armed forces and solidify his credentials as commander. North Korean media said veterans have traveled to Pyongyang to commemorate the armistice's 59th anniversary. U.S. and South Korean officials commemorated the armistice that ended the 1950-1953 war at the border village of Panmunjom. The Korean Peninsula remains technically in a state of war.

Landslides kill 7 in northern Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Disaster officials and state media in Vietnam say landslides and flash floods triggered by Typhoon Vicente have killed seven people, including three in a single family, and left three others missing. Official Lai Thanh Huyen of Tuyen Quang province in northern Vietnam said Friday that landslides following heavy rains buried a 28-year-old woman, her five-year-old daughter and four-month-old son early Thursday while they were sleeping in their home. The Tuoi Tre newspaper reported that landslides killed four people in the neighboring province of Ha Giang. It says flash floods have left three other people missing elsewhere in the region. Vicente injured dozens and grounded planes in Hong Kong earlier in the week.

US F-16s cleared for flying after crash off Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Dozens of U.S. F-16 fighters in northern Japan have been cleared to fly again after a crash into the Pacific on Sunday. Base officials said Friday the jets with the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base were grounded for five days of safety checks following the crash Sunday. The pilot ejected and was in the water for six hours before he was rescued. The crash was the first of an F-16 out of Misawa since 2002 and is under investigation. Base officials say the pilot, whose name has not been released, is in stable condition. The United States has about 50,000 troops in Japan and operates several major air bases under a mutual security pact. There are about 45 F-16s in the 35th Fighter Wing.

Crowds hamper beached whale rescue in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers say a giant sperm whale beached in Indonesia is slowly dying after rescue efforts were hampered by hordes of spectators vying to get a closer look. Pramudya Harzani from the Jakarta Animal Aid Network said Friday that the 2-ton whale, a protected species, washed ashore Wednesday near West Java's Krawang beach and attracted hundreds of onlookers who posed for pictures with it. He said rescuers tried to lead the 12-meter (39-foot) whale to sea Thursday, but it washed back to shore after fishing boats packed with paying passengers blocked it from swimming. He said the whale was scratched and bruised, apparently from people climbing on it. Police are now trying to keep people away from the weak whale while waiting for a ship to pull it back to sea.

NATO: Bomb kills 2 service members in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—NATO says a bomb has killed two of its service members in southern Afghanistan. The statement from the U.S.-led coalition did not provide the nationalities of the two nor any other details of the Thursday attack. The deaths bring the number of foreign troops killed this month to at least 38, and the total for this year to at least 253.

World

Syrian defector wants to help unify opposition

By ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's most prominent defector offered himself up Thursday as a figure to unite the fractious opposition, saying he failed to persuade his former friend, President Bashar Assad, to end a bloody crackdown that has killed thousands of Syrians.

The remarks by Manaf Tlass, a Syrian brigadier general until he abandoned the regime this month, were published in a Saudi newspaper just as opposition factions gathered in Qatar to try to agree on a transitional leadership if Assad's regime falls.

Some opposition members are deeply skeptical of Tlass, believing he's far too close to the regime.

Mahmoud Othman, a member of the opposition Syrian National Council, said Tlass would simply "bring back the regime with a different image."

"Those who recently defected from the regime must not take part in leading the transitional period," Othman told The Associated Press from Istanbul, where he is based. "After the transitional period, the Syrian people will choose whomever they want through the ballots."

Members of the SNC met Thursday, but made no decisions on a possible leadership to fill the vacuum if Assad falls, according to Burhan Ghalioun, a former leader of the group.

The SNC has acted as the international face of the revolution, but it has been unable to unite all dozens of disparate rebel and opposition factions under one banner.

Ghalioun said talks would continue Friday and could stretch on past this series of meetings.

Tlass, a commander in the powerful Republican Guard and the son of a former defense minister, defected three weeks ago. Although the regime has remained largely intact over the course of the 17-month-old uprising, the pace of defections appears to be picking up.

"I will try to help as much as I can to unite all the honorable people inside and outside Syria to put together a roadmap to get us out of this crisis, whether there is a role for me or not," he told the Al-Sharq Al-Awsat daily in an interview.

He said he was in Saudi Arabia—a key financial backer of the rebellion—to assess what kind of assistance the oil-rich nation could give to help create a new Syria. He said he does not see a future for Syria with Assad at the helm. The last time he saw the president, he said, was about a year ago.

Turkey's Foreign Ministry also announced a surprise visit by Tlass on Thursday. He attended a dinner with Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who has been an outspoken Assad critic. Turkey's intelligence chief and a senior foreign ministry official also were at the dinner.

Tlass left Davutoglu's residence after about an hour, wearing a dark suit with a light blue shirt, the top buttons undone. He didn't take any questions and was driven away in the back of a BMW.

Since his defection, Tlass has spoken publicly only twice, both times to Saudi-controlled media.

Tlass, once a personal friend of Assad, told the newspaper that the regime has many good people without blood on their hands and that the country's institutions should be preserved. He said he tried to persuade the president not to listen to his inner circle of security advisers who were all recommending a harsh crackdown on the uprising.

Tlass said he defected when he realized the regime could not be deterred from its single-minded pursuit of crushing the opposition.

"Sometimes in a friendship you advise a friend many times, and then you discover that you aren't having any impact, so you decide to distance yourself," he said.

A handsome man in his mid-40s, Manaf led an extravagant lifestyle, and he and his wife were fixtures on the social scene in Syria, where he often spoke on Assad's behalf.

Tlass was also a powerful Sunni in a government dominated by the Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam. His father, Mustafa Tlass, was the most trusted lieutenant of the late Hafez Assad, the president's father and predecessor.

The conflict in Syria, which activists say has killed more than 19,000 people since March 2011, has drawn deep international condemnation. But world powers have few options to help beyond diplomacy—in part because of fears that any military intervention could exacerbate an already explosive battle. Syria's close ties to Iran and the Islamic militant group Hezbollah in Lebanon mean that the conflict has the potential to draw in the country's neighbors.

In Washington, the Obama administration is weighing its options for more direct involvement in the Syrian civil war if the rebels opposing the Assad regime can wrest enough control to create a safe haven for themselves, U.S. officials said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says it's only a matter of time before the rebels have enough territory and organization to create such areas.

Battling in Aleppo

Rebel forces have battled regime troops who used tanks and fixed-wing aircraft to attack their positions in the Aleppo area. The regime is rushing reinforcements to the city, Syria's largest.

Source: AP, BBC
Graphic: Robert Dorrell
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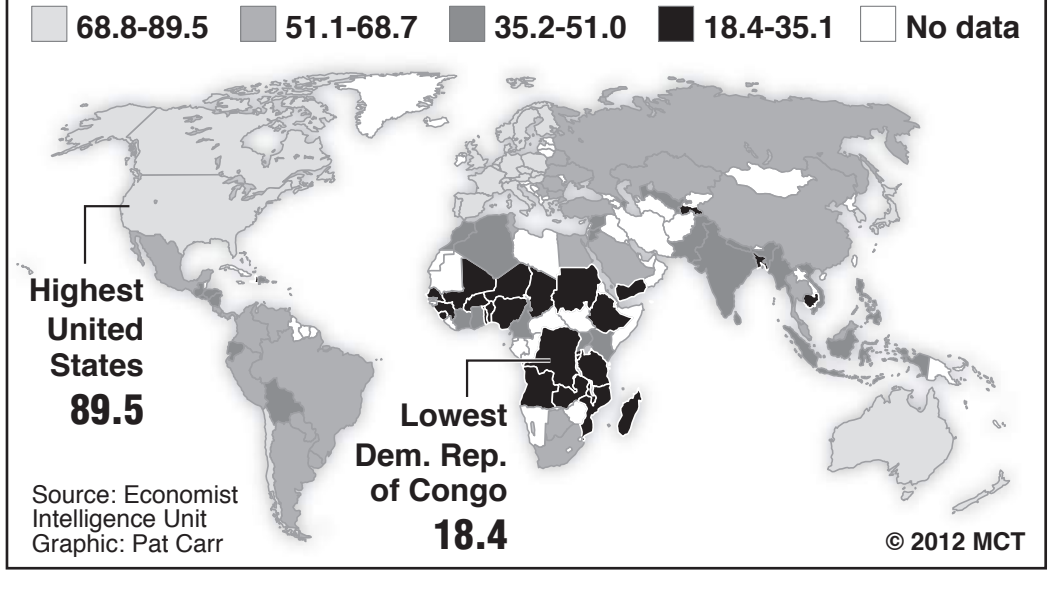
Food security worldwide

How nations score on the Global Food Security Index, which rates them on scale of 1-100 (100 is best) on the affordability, availability, quality and safety of their food supply:



Source: Economist Intelligence Unit
Graphic: Pat Carr
© 2012 MCT

Milosevic ex-ally to become Serbia's PM

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—As Serbia's parliament prepared to elect Ivica Dacic as prime minister, the former wartime spokesman for Slobodan Milosevic tried to dispel concern that his government could push this country back into the nationalism of the late strongman's era.

Ivica Dacic—who had earned the nickname "Little Sloba" in the past for his admiration of the former Yugoslav president—pledged once again in his speech to the lawmakers on Thursday that he would press on with Serbia's bid to join the European Union and promote peace and stability in the Balkans.

"There has been enough blood in the Balkans," Dacic said. "Serbia is offering its hand. Let us turn to the future and not deal with the past."

Dacic's coalition of parties in Parliament has the majority needed to elect him prime minister and to approve his Cabinet. This was initially expected to happen on Thursday night, but the vote was delayed until noon on Friday after parliamentary discussion continued into the early morning hours.

Not everyone was reassured by Dacic's speech.

In Kosovo, Serbia's former province which declared independence in 2008 following a bloody war, Foreign Minister Enver Hoxhaj described Dacic's ruling coalition as "antidemocratic and anti-European" and "rooted in the past."

"Still, it is the choice of the Serbian people," Hoxhaj said. "They are the ones who should worry if Serbia returns to its dark past or looks toward a European future."

Nenad Canak, an opposition lawmaker in the Serbian parliament, said: "Ours was no ordinary past that we can simply leave behind." Speaking to Dacic, he said: "You are talking about it as if the Balkan wars were a petty quarrel."

If Dacic and his Cabinet, which also includes President Tomislav Nikolic's nationalist party and several smaller groups, are sworn in on Friday, as expected, that will end nearly three months of political uncertainty that followed an inconclusive election on May 6.

Dacic

Once elected, the new Cabinet will mark the first time Milosevic's nationalist allies have fully returned to power in Serbia since the former autocrat was ousted in a popular revolt in 2000 after a decade marked with wars, international sanctions and economic downturn.

Dacic and his coalition partners have strong ties with Russia and have suggested in the past that they would drop Serbia's EU bid if it means that the country has to give up its claim on Kosovo, whose independence Belgrade has refused to accept.

Djordje Vlajic, an editor at Radio Belgrade, said the democratic public in Serbia fears a return to Milosevic's autocratic era of the 1990s, but such a scenario is impossible and "no one would dare reignite tensions in the region." He said Dacic has changed "and built a pro-European image and he will seek to stick to that."

Vlajic warned, however, that "some elements (of war-era tensions) could return if the new ruling coalition does not send a clear message" that it has changed.

In his speech, Dacic insisted that "our goal is to speed up the process of EU integration." He said that the new authorities are ready to "immediately" continue the EU-brokered talks with Kosovo, which is a condition for Serbia's EU bid. "Serbia will not recognize Kosovo's independence," Dacic said. "But we will solve the issue of Kosovo peacefully and through dialogue."

Besides Dacic, the new government would include other prominent figures from the Milosevic era. Aleksandar Vucic—who would be in charge of defense and security in the new government—was Milosevic's former information minister, notorious for his extremist views during the 1998-99 Kosovo war.

Milosevic was widely blamed for instigating the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, which claimed more than 100,000 lives and left millions homeless. The former Serbian and Yugoslav leader was tried for genocide at the U.N. tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, where he died before the trial ended.

Post-Milosevic authorities have since managed to restore Serbian ties with the world and boost regional reconciliation. The reformists have also arrested war criminals and made Serbia a candidate for EU entry, gaining support from the United States and its EU allies who have sought to stabilize the Balkans.

Dacic was a loyal disciple during the war and has evoked Milosevic's trademark defiance and populism even after forging an alliance with pro-Western Democrats in the previous government. However, Dacic ditched the Democrats after reformist leader Boris Tadic lost the presidential election to nationalist Nikolic.

Dacic then turned to Nikolic's nationalist Progressive Party for a coalition, reportedly with support from Russia.

Among the challenges facing the new government are widespread joblessness and a cash-strapped budget amid deepening economic crisis. The average salary in Serbia is around (EURO)350 ($429) per month, while poverty is widespread.

Young Style

Architect and playground builder Ron King is part of a robust movement to bring back more natural play, with environments that serve up some messiness and risk-taking along with exercise.

AP

In this publicity photo provided by Natural Playgrounds Company, an embankment slide is built into a constructed hill at an elementary school as shown here in Glens Falls, N.Y. The embankment slide is safer than tower slides with ladders. Scattered boulders, random dirt steps, rough terrain, and varied plantings add to the rich textures and varied experiences on Natural Playgrounds.

Playground design goes on a nature hike

By KIM COOK
For The Associated Press

Kids may play on equipment for a short time, he says, "but then they want to run around. They want to climb a hill, scramble over rocks, listen to the wind and play in the rain. They want to explore and discover rather than have their play experience defined by a piece of equipment."

So when his company, the Concord, New Hampshire-based Natural Playgrounds, builds a playground for a school or community, he tries to incorporate any equipment into the existing landscape, using or adding boulders, wooden beams, hammocks, water pumps or sand. Polycarbonate slides are built into embankments so the slides can be higher but the falls aren't as dangerous. They're also treated so that static electricity doesn't interfere with cochlear implants, and they're heat-resistant.

He might put in a water pump that needs to be primed, and sand that can be sculpted. Cedar, steel and copper can be turned into drums, musical fences, and tubular contraptions that make interesting sounds when gravel, water, sticks or hands come in contact with them. There are places to play quiet games, and also room to run with the gang.

Having the opportunity to do both is optimal, says Susan Solomon, author of "American Playgrounds" and the upcoming "The Science of Play" (both from University Press of New England). The trend toward more natural playgrounds, she says, is due partly to the high cost of the prefabricated, themed structures (jungle, pirate ship, tiny town) found in so many playgrounds today. It's also the result of growing interest in nature and local products, and of parental nostalgia for what is remembered as a more unfettered childhood.

Playgrounds in recent years—including some natural playgrounds—have gotten a little tame, Solomon says. Safety and liability concerns have driven out many tall or fast pieces of equipment.

And with them some of the fun. "They don't allow kids to take chances," Solomon says.

"Risk involves uncertain outcomes—going fast, reaching great heights or even hiding, in order to overcome primal fears and create exhilaration."

Restoring some of that excitement safely is one goal of designers of natural playgrounds.

The Woodland Discovery Playground at Shelby Farms Park in Memphis, Tennessee, is a 3.5-acre (1.4-hectare) amalgam of nature, naturalistic elements, and steel and plastic structures. It was developed by the New York-based design firm James Corner Field Operations after a series of workshops with local kids.

"What was so remarkable was that most children actually preferred woodland exploration to playing on the existing playground that occupied the site," says the firm's senior designer, Sarah Weidner Astheimer.

The resulting playground consists of six play "nests"; features include climbing walls, a bright red suspended net, a variety of swings, tree forts, vines and a place for quiet play.

A mix of natural and man-made challenges is also the recipe recommended by Paige Johnson, who writes a blog called Playground Designs. A few natural rocks and tree stumps aren't enough, she says.

"Some advocates even reject swings or slides, but the experience of dynamic motion, where a child feels a temporary loss of body control, is part of great play," she says. "It makes even grownups laugh."

A natural playground needs a few key elements, according to Johnson: a hill, boulders and stumps to climb on; rocks and gravel to dig in; paths and perhaps a little bridge to traverse; and a gate or door that kids can turn into a portal of their own. Finally, there should be a pile of loose parts: wood blocks, bricks or boxes of donated junk that can be turned into an imaginative, free-wheeling experience.

AP

In this publicity photo provided by Natural Playgrounds Company, a labyrinth playground is shown. Natural Playgrounds offers labyrinths because "walking the labyrinth" can be very calming for children and adults. Do-it-yourself templates of various labyrinth sizes catering to different ages are available in the Natural Playgrounds online store.

AP

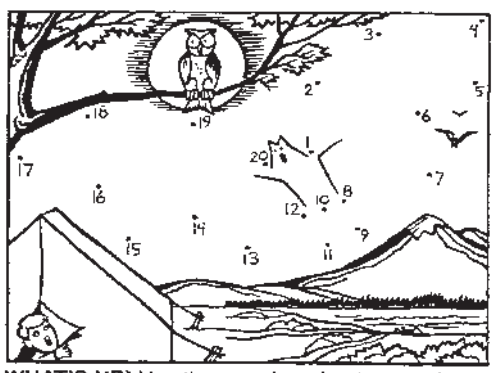
In this publicity photo provided by the Natural Playgrounds Company, a Pebble Harp, as one of a series of musical instruments is shown. It makes beautiful, tinkling, harp-like sounds when children drop pebbles down the slots in the top, and pebbles drop out the bottom, ready to be reused to make more music.

AP

In this publicity photo provided by the Natural Playgrounds Company, a Tree Deck Natural Playground built on a hill is shown at a child care facility in McMurray, P.A. Tree Deck playgrounds help children touch tree canopies, get closer to birds, and experience heights.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



WHAT'S UP! Hey there, owl, go hoot somewhere else. And what other creature is stirring? Connect dots to find out.

ALL THUMBS! Close your eyes. Hold hands at eye level, about a foot apart. Point thumbs at each other. Now, bring hands together slowly so that thumbs touch tip to tip. Remember, you must do this with eyes closed.

SIDE SHOW! Place 12 coins in a square configuration as shown at right. That is to say, form a square with four coins on each side. Now, challenge someone to remove two coins (leaving just 10) and to reposition two of those remaining so that a total of four coins continues to appear on each of the four sides.

How is it done?

See if you can provide an answer before consulting below.

There's a trick to it, natch.

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Remove coins 2 and 11; place coin 6 atop 4, and 9 atop 10.

1	T				T
2					
3					
4					
5	T				

WORD SQUARE
T-SER

THREE T's are clues to five words that form a word square at left. That is to say, three T's are provided as clues to five five-letter words that will read the same both across and down.

Definitions:

1. "To your good health," could be one.
2. Playful, endangered sea animal.
3. Make amends.
4. Intuitive power: A sixth —.
5. Ashes, oaks, beeches, pines, etc.

Remember, word square words read the same both across and down.

1. Toast. 2. Otter. 3. Atone. 4. Sense. 5. Trees.

Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was pioneering British film director and producer Alfred Hitchcock who made the following sage observation: "Television has done much for psychiatry by spreading information about it—as well as contributing to the need for it."

■ The grapefruit is so named not because of any relation to or resemblance to a grape (obviously), but because it hangs from the tree in grapelike clusters.

■ Those who study such things say that the three most recognized words in the world are God, Coca-Cola and Titanic.

■ Although darts is a traditionally English pub game, there are now more than three times as many darts players in the United States than there are in the United Kingdom.

■ Jazz musician Glenn Miller was the recipient of the first gold record ever awarded, for the big-band hit "Chattanooga Choo-Choo."

■ The amount of fuel in a jumbo jet single tank would be enough to allow a car to drive around the world—four times.

■ If you had visited Peru in the mid-1980s, you could have bought toothpaste with cocaine in it.

■ Before he became the celebrated author of such novels as "Pale Fire" and "Lolita," Vladimir Nabokov was a tennis instructor.

■ The longest game in the history of professional baseball was played between the Pawtucket Red Sox and the Rochester Red Wings in April of 1981. It lasted just shy of 8 1/2 hours, and ran for an unbelievable 33 innings.

■ It's traditional in Italy for a prospective groom to spend a full year's earnings on an engagement ring.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "If a rabbit defined intelligence the way man does, then the most intelligent animal would be a rabbit, followed by the animal most willing to obey the commands of a rabbit." —Robert Brault

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MAGIC MAZE ● TRAIN —

Z	B	X	U	Q	M	J	F	B	Y	U	R	O	K	H
D	A	X	U	Q	N	K	H	Y	E	B	Y	V	S	P
D	I	S	P	A	T	C	H	E	R	M	J	H	E	B
Y	V	T	Q	O	L	I	G	L	I	E	D	B	Y	W
T	N	R	P	M	K	I	F	B	D	S	B	D	B	K
Y	W	O	L	U	S	R	Q	A	E	K	O	B	M	C
K	I	F	I	D	E	P	O	T	D	C	B	Z	O	E
X	W	U	O	T	R	L	S	E	Q	A	S	O	N	R
L	J	H	S	F	A	A	D	M	C	R	R	A	Y	W
W	V	A	T	S	F	T	Y	I	Q	T	A	P	N	L
K	M	I	H	F	E	C	S	T	E	K	C	I	T	B

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Cars	Load	Robbery	Timetable
Depot	Master	Set	Wreck
Dispatcher	Oil	Station	Yard
Fare	Ride	Tickets	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		11
×		×		÷	
	+		+		24
−		−		+	
	+		×		33
26		9		4	

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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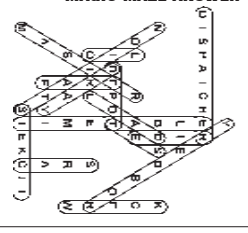
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

4	÷	2	+	9	11
×		×		÷	
8	+	7	+	9	24
−		−		+	
6	+	5	×	3	33
	÷		×		

26 4 9

Ban pit bulls?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I've been reading recent reports that some communities in the United States are trying to ban certain breeds of dogs, like pit bulls. I think this is a great idea, because pit bulls are so unpredictable and violent. Do you agree? —Carol in Tacoma, Wash.

DEAR CAROL: Nope, I don't agree. That's because completely banning specific dog breeds won't solve the problem of dog bites and attacks.

Even dogs of breeds considered benign can attack humans or other dogs —poodles being the first that come to mind. But, you argue, poodles aren't violent! Well—unfortunately, I've met a few. The fact is, all breeds of dog have the potential to bite humans. Owners must be aware of and accept this possibility.

I try to educate pet owners about better ways to care for their pets. In the case of dog attacks, I feel that education of the owner is the strongest deterrent. That education should start before a person even becomes a dog owner, so that he or she can make the best choice of dog for the household. A pit bull or other type of guard or attack dog may not be ideal for a number of reasons beyond possible temperament: They're big dogs; they're powerful; they need lots of attention and training, no matter how nice they appear to be.

Paw's corner by Sam Mazzotta

Dog owners of all breeds—not just those considered "dangerous"—need to know the specific behavioral issues of their breed. They need to train their dog, and socialize the dog with both other humans and other dogs. The best way to learn how to do this is to enroll in group training classes with a certified trainer, an investment that pays off all the way down the road.

■ ■ ■

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Creative outdoor summer fun

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Summer is in full bloom, with plenty of time left to get out and play between now and Labor Day. Enjoy your favorite family activities, or try something new on your sand-bucket list. The key is to jump on an idea when the inspiration strikes!

As you experience the magic of together time, watch the special memories grow with your children. Here are "creativity on the go" ideas:

Hike and Hunt

On your next hike to a familiar destination, such as a waterfall, fishing hole or scenic lookout, see the trek with new eyes and ears by challenging the kids to a surprise nature scavenger hunt. Before you leave, make a list of sights, sounds and smells you recall from previous outings on the trail. Copy the list for each hiker, hand it out at the trail base and let the explorers check off the finds as they discover them.

Enjoy Picnics at Public Parks

When you add an "s" to "park," a whole new world of adventure opens for your family and friends. Check out venues in your area online, set dates on your calendar and meet up weekly with your friends and their kids until school starts. Bring a dish to share, or plan a group barbecue around picnic tables and a charcoal grill.

Go to free outdoor art and music fairs and listen to live entertainment as you wander booths and exhibits. At some art shows, observe how artists create new works "live ... in the open air," known in French as "en plein air." Your own pint-size poster-paint artists will be thrilled watching the swish of a brush at an easel.

Lasting Summer Memories

At the end of summer, produce an impromptu "Video Special." Use smartphones, video recorders or tape recorders to interview family members like guests on a morning talk show. Save the recording, including the bloopers!

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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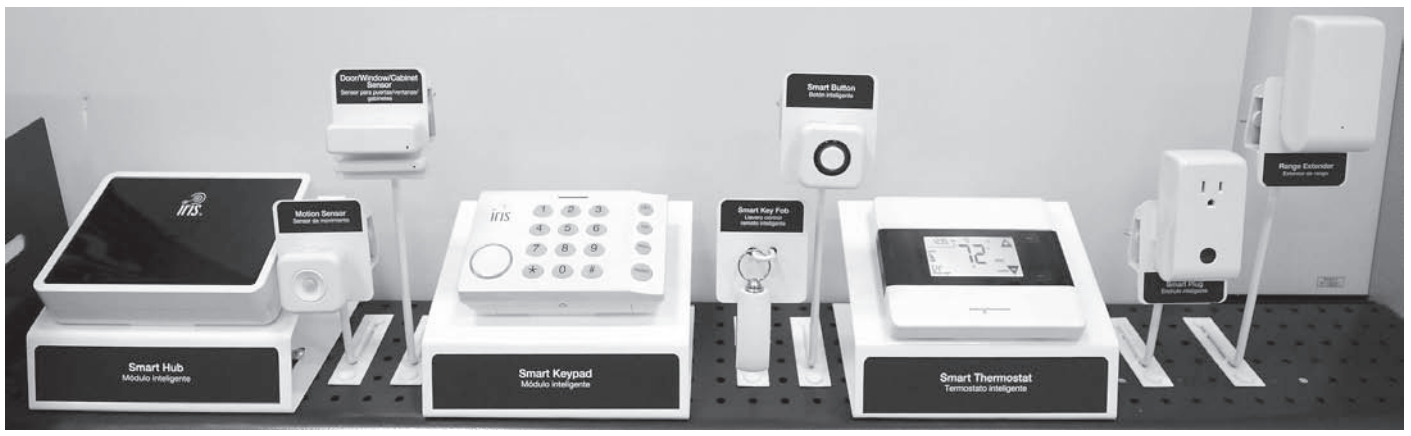
Distributed by King Features Synd.

Good Housekeeping

Smart home coming whether Americans are ready or not



CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

A Smart Hub, from left, Smart Keypad, Smart Thermostat, Smart Plug, Range Extender are among the components available for the Iris, Lowe's new "smart home" system. The Lowe's Ballantyne store is one of 10 in the country with a pilot display for the new Iris system. The Iris is supposed to connect every appliance in the home wirelessly and let consumers control it all over their phone.

By ELY PORTILLO
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Lowe's executives are hesitant to say that we've arrived at the home of the Jetsons, with everything in your house automated and controlled by computers and wireless devices, but they say we're not far off.

"There's been so much hype, we don't usually say 'the Jetsons house,' " said Kevin Meagher, vice president of smart homes for Mooresville, N.C.-based Lowe's Inc. "The reality is, we're getting there."

The home improvement company has started rolling out its Iris system, which it says will help consumers use less electricity, increase security, and help monitor and alert homeowners to everything from freezer doors left open to elderly parents in trouble.

Iris gives users the ability to remotely control and monitor systems such as thermostats, door locks, power consumption, cameras and motion sensors, on a computer or mobile device. Lowe's is expanding Iris to nearly 500 stores this month, up from a pilot run in 10 stores. The products are also available online nationwide.

Lowe's hopes to expand the system to work wirelessly with more household appliances and possibly even electricity meters in future "smart grids."

Iris is the latest in a string of smart home systems that have come out recently. Time Warner Cable has been rolling out its IntelligentHome service. Verizon unveiled a similar system in 2011, and Comcast is pushing its Xfinity smart home system to customers. AT&T is piloting a similar system called Digital Life. And home security company ADT has offered a smart home system called Pulse since 2010.

But there are still questions over whether smart homes will truly catch on, or even whether consumers really want them. The Pew Internet & American Life Project released a survey of experts on where they see the future of smart home systems in June.

Just over half agreed with the prediction that fully connected smart homes would be much more widespread and efficient in 2020, while just under half predicted most smart home efforts will fail due to consumer trust issues and the systems' complexity.

Smart home systems will certainly have to overcome hurdles before consumers adopt them. Chief among those, Pew found, is the problem of getting diverse manufacturers to all use compatible standards in consumer electronics, so they can all talk to each other.

The systems are also more complicated than old-fashioned "dumb" homes, even though Lowe's and others have taken steps to simplify them. And consumers could react negatively to the "Big Brother" aspect of having their energy usage and comings and goings constantly monitored, even if by a service they signed up for.

Many of the systems on the market now offer similar capabilities. Lowe's Iris, Time Warner Cable's Intelligent Home, and Verizon all give users the capabilities to remotely set thermostats, set door alarms, and connect to wireless cameras in the home, for example.

Here's how Iris works: Once Iris is installed, a small hub wirelessly talks to various home appliances and a user's mobile device. Users can set rules, such as turning thermostats down when they leave, or wirelessly turn them back up before they get home. A key fob sensor tells the system whether the user is at home or not. The system also comes with motion sensors and cameras, which can be accessed from a mobile device, sensors to tell whether a door is open or closed, a smoke detector and flood sensors.

Lowe's is rolling out more devices integrated with Iris soon, such as door locks and pet doors, which can be configured to open or close at certain times. The retailer also is leveraging its connections with manufacturers to come up with more connected devices in the future, such as valves that automatically turn off water if a flood is detected, or a water heater that learns your personal routine and heats the water only when you generally need it.

Pork Chops with Glazed Peaches

1/3 cup Dijon mustard
1/4 cup packed light or dark brown sugar
1 tablespoon bottled steak sauce
4 pork loin chops, each 3/4-inch thick
Parsley sprigs, for garnish
Glazed Peaches (below)

1. In medium bowl, with fork, mix Dijon mustard, brown sugar and steak sauce. Add pork chops, turning to coat chops with mustard mixture.

2. Place pork chops on grill over medium heat. Cook pork chops until lightly browned on both sides and chops just lose their pink color throughout, about 10 to 12 minutes, brushing with mustard sauce remaining in bowl and turning them occasionally. Place pork chops on 4 dinner plates; garnish with parsley sprigs. Serve with Glazed Peaches, if you like. Serves 4.

3. Glazed Peaches: About 10 minutes before serving, cut each of 4 medium-size peaches in half; remove pits. In small bowl, with spoon, mix 2 tablespoons light or dark brown sugar with 1 tablespoon water. Place peach halves on grill over medium heat and cook 5 to 8 minutes, brushing peaches with brown-sugar mixture and turning peaches occasionally, until hot and lightly browned.

Gourmet Grilled Angel Food Cake

Store-bought angel food cake goes gourmet when it's grilled and topped with sweetened balsamic-soaked strawberries.

1 1/2 pounds strawberries, hulled and each cut in half, or into quarters if large
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
1 tablespoon sugar
1 (9-ounce) store-bought angel food cake
Whipped cream (optional)

1. In medium bowl, toss strawberries with balsamic vinegar and sugar. Let stand at room temperature until sugar dissolves, at least 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

2. Meanwhile, prepare outdoor grill for direct grilling on medium. Cut angel food cake into 6 wedges.

3. Place cake on hot grill rack and cook 3 to 4 minutes or until lightly toasted on both sides, turning over once. Spoon strawberries with their juice onto 6 dessert plates. Place grilled cake on plates with strawberries; serve with whipped cream if you like. Serves 6.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

Get free HDTV with an outdoor antenna

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

THIS IS A HAMMER

Q: I recently canceled my cable subscription in order to save money. While watching the news streamed on my computer is OK, I'd like to pick up local stations on my TV. How can I do that? -- Chuck F., New Hampshire

A: Today's over-the-air TV transmissions are entirely digital, a change mandated by the government a couple of years back. The old "analog" TV transmissions were switched off in 2010, something that owners of old tube televisions who try to pick up signals with their old antennae are painfully aware of.

However, even with an older television, you can pick up line-of-sight transmissions and receive local television stations. Converter boxes are available at most large retailers that sell electronics and cost from $30 to $60. You can learn more at http://dtv.gov/consumercorner_4.html.

If you have a newer HD television, you might be able to pick up a few signals if the TV has a built-in digital antenna. If not, there are several HD antennas on the market. If you live in an area where TV signals are traditionally faint, you'll absolutely need one of these. They start at around $45 and go up in price, but the plus side is that you won't pay any more money for TV signals once the antenna is up. At least one brand of HD antenna was designed to be set up inside your home, but there are other brands specifically made to be set up outside or on the roof. Outdoor antennas can pick up signals up to 50 miles away in most cases, as long as there aren't too many obstructions like hills or other buildings between your home and the transmission source.

To set up an outdoor HD antenna, follow the instructions included with the product. Those made for rooftops should include proper mounting bolts and, ideally, small sealing squares (basically roof-patching squares) that sit between the antenna mount base and the roof. If those sealing squares aren't included, head to your home-improvement store for roof patches and cut them to fit.

You'll also need to feed the coaxial cable connecting the antenna back into the house to your television. If possible, try using the holes already drilled by the cable company to install its coax, rather than punch more holes in your home's envelope.

A number of videos on the web can provide more information on antenna installation. This video (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuY-D9fQG_s) shows one homeowner's installation option, at the top of the eave. Another (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0WQtzMdo7I) provides details on properly positioning the antenna for an optimal signal, which is important in remote areas.

home tip

If you have an existing dish or antenna mount on the roof, take note of how the mount base is set up. It can be a big help in setting up your HD antenna without causing a roof leak.

Send your questions or tips to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Boost home's value with curb appeal

By CHUCK MYERS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

First impressions matter, especially when it comes to selling a home.

A home's curb appeal — how its exterior looks to a buyer from the street — can either provide an inviting enticement for a prospective buyer or produce a negative impression.

Several websites offer a host of information for improving the curb appeal value of a residential property. Here are a few with good insights:

■ Bankrate.com: Covers eight tricks to improve the curb appeal value of a home. http://www.bankrate.com/brm/news/real-estate/curb-appeala1.asp

■ Good Housekeeping: Lists five ways to boost curb appeal. http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/renovation/boost-curb-appeal-mar02

■ HandyAmerican.com: Serves up extensive list of home improvements to maximize a home's curb appeal. http://www.handyamerican.com/articles-tips-imv-exterior-improvements.asp

■ Home Gain: Offers spending considerations and guidelines for remodeling a home. http://www.homegain.com/info_center/other/how_much_to_spend_on_remodeling_your_home/show_article

■ Kiplinger.com: Spotlights curb appeal beautification options for free, $100 and $500. http://www.kiplinger.com/columns/kiptips/archives/10-cheap-ways-to-improve-curb-appeal.html

Life & Style

Tweet show: Stewart-Pattinson scandal in 140 characters

By ARIENNE THOMPSON
USA TODAY

A pop culture sensation like the Robert Pattinson-Kristen Stewart-Rupert Sanders cheating scandal only comes around so often in Hollywood, so it makes sense that Twitter would be, well, all atwitter with the news.

On Wednesday, Stewart, 22, confirmed that she had been unfaithful to her Twilight co-star and boyfriend of three years, Pattinson, 26, and then apologized within the span of just three sentences: "I'm deeply sorry for the hurt and embarrassment I've caused to those close to me and everyone this has affected. This momentary indiscretion has jeopardized the most important thing in my life, the person I love and respect the most, Rob. I love him, I love him, I'm so sorry."

Paparazzi caught Stewart kissing and canoodling with her married Snow White and the Huntsman director Sanders, 41, who issued his own charged statement. "I am utterly distraught about the pain I have caused my family. My beautiful wife and heavenly children are all I have in this world. I love them with all my heart. I am praying that we can get through this together."

Between the emotionally worded admissions of guilt and the shock of seeing one of Hollywood's most popular couples fall apart, impassioned Twilight fans and detractors alike are going online to say their piece—in 140 characters or less. A collection of the most amusing tweets of the day about a sullen girl, her British beau and the director who changed everything:

■ This is exciting. I've been hoping for more photos of Kristen Stewart in the press looking depressed.

■ Keep Calm and support Kristen Stewart.

■ Ok im over kristen stewart for the 2nd time….back to worrying about who is january jones baby daddy

■ Unfortunately Kristen Stewart can't show she's sorry for cheating on Robert Pattinson because she has no facial expressions…

■ I'm not surprised Kristen Stewart couldn't act faithful. She can't act happy, sad, frightened, mad, shocked or aroused either.

■ Kristen Stewart says she's sorry for everything… I'm assuming she means her career.

■ this kristen stewart thing is concerning. not because she cheated but because TWO whole people were actually willing to sleep with her

■ Obviously Kristen Stewart is to blame for Twitter being down because Kristen Stewart is a life ruiner - she ruins lives.

■ "Yay! Twitter is down!!!!" - Kristen Stewart

■ Kristen Stewart's publicist killin' it by shutting down Twitter all morning.

■ At least Kristen Stewart only broke Robert Pattinson's heart instead of driving a stake through it.

■ Yo Kristen Stewart stop texting me I'm a married man now LOL

■ ROBERT PATTINSON CHEATED ON BY KRISTEN STEWART? THIS HAS COMPLETELY not affected my life one bit.

■ Just invited Kristen Stewart to my powerful office, to talk about a film I'm making. I'm hoping she takes good direction…

■ Kristen Stewart cheated on Rob Pattinson? Well the première of Breaking Dawn Part2 will be awkward…

■ r u still into ruining marriages of guys w/ young kids? dm me xoxo

■ What the Twilight? Kristen Stewart has lost her MIND. She had a good man … he was a Vampire … but a good man!

■ Kristen Stewart apologises for cheating on Rob Pattinson with director Rupert Sanders. She should apologise for Twilight first.

AP

This May 29, 2012 file photo shows actress Kristen Stewart and director Rupert Sanders attending the "Snow White and the Huntsman" screening in Los Angeles.

Colo. massacre casts ugly scar on Batman mythology

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bat-fan and comic-book historian Arlen Schumer is worried. He fears the mass shooting at a midnight screening of "The Dark Knight Rises" in Aurora, Colo., will forever be associated with the legend of Batman.

"After mourning and feeling sympathy for the families, taking a step back as a Batman fan and historian, I'm concerned that this will taint what I consider to be an American treasure of not only popular culture but of mythology," he says. "I don't want it to be the second line of the Wikipedia entry, like Watergate is to Nixon."

The role that Batman fiction might have played in motivating alleged attacker James Holmes in the theater shooting remains unclear nearly a week after the massacre that killed 12 and injured 58. Although investigators reportedly found a Batman mask inside Holmes' booby-trapped apartment, any connection to the storied comic character could be simple coincidence.

Or it could be a chilling aspect of the murderous plot.

Schumer and other Batman devotees caution against drawing premature parallels between the massacre and the ever-evolving history of Batman, a flawed human superhero who has been rooted in reality since his pulpy inception in 1939.

"There are so many things that we don't know about (Holmes)," said Travis Langley, author of "Batman and Psychology: A Dark and Stormy Knight" and a professor of psychology at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Ark. "The degree that he might be lost in fantasy, we don't know. I think it's safe to assume he had some kind of need for others to notice him."

AP

This image released by Warner Bros. shows Christian Bale as Batman in "The Dark Knight Rises."

Reports surfaced after the shooting that Holmes, his hair dyed a reddish-orange, had told arresting officers he was Batman's rival, the Joker. Authorities declined to confirm that, but fans were quick to note that the Joker's hair is actually green and that the dazed 24-year-old sitting in court Monday hardly recalled Batman's arch-nemesis.

"Clearly, we are influenced by popular culture," said Langley. "The tricky part is quantifying it. There are millions upon millions of influences on us all the time. Our culture is one of those influences, but we don't know to what degree. Even if it turns out that Holmes is preoccupied with Batman and the Joker, there are so many other variables involved."

Still, questions persist about possible parallels. Why did the mass murderer target a midnight screening of director Christopher Nolan's final installment in his Batman trilogy? Why would anyone claim to be the Clown Prince of Crime? What's appealing about such an appalling villain?

"The Joker imposes his face on the world, so he can feel like it makes more sense to him," said Langely. "He tries to show the world it's as ugly as he is—and he's always been doing that to make himself feel bigger in the world. That could appeal to individuals who want the world to fit around them. For the majority of fans, they don't have that motivation.""

The Joker has been captivating audiences since he was established as the murderous yin to the Batman's yang in 1940 by DC Comics writers Bob Kane and Bill Finger, and artist Jerry Robinson. Langley believes the lack of motivation and a definitive backstory for the Joker, whose schemes range from mutating smiley Joker fish to murdering Robin, makes him more interesting.

A less severe Joker was pranking Batman in the comics of the '60s, while an over-the-top Cesar Romero was playing him on the "Batman" TV series starring Adam West. The comic book character returned to his homicidal roots in the '70s and has since been portrayed on film as an out-of-control terror by both Jack Nicholson and Heath Ledger, who won a posthumous Oscar for the role in 2008.

Bat-mania is about more than just fantasy, though. It's a big business spanning comics, film, TV, video games, merchandise and live events. Gene Del Vecchio, an entertainment research consultant and author of "Creating Blockbusters: How to Generate and Market Hit Entertainment for TV, Movies, Video Games and Books," doubts the massacre will impact the brand, noting that it's a "trivial issue in the face of such tragedy."

"There is apt to be little or no monetary effect on the Batman franchise," said Del Vecchio. "People go to movies, play with toys, buy soundtracks and read comics in order to escape. Escapism is such a powerful human desire that it won't be affected by the recent event."

However, the shooting might affect the tone of the franchise moving forward, especially considering Dark Knight tales have often mirrored what's happening in our world, whether Batman is taking down Nazi saboteurs in the comics or dealing with terrorism post-9/11 on film.

"I suspect the stories were heading in an even darker direction," said Langley. "They are going to recognize that the public are looking at it differently now and might be ready for something brighter and more heroic."

Since Frank Miller's seminal 1986 comic series "The Dark Knight Returns," which bleakly painted an aging Bruce Wayne coming out of retirement to rescue a doomed Gotham, and Alan Moore's 1988 Joker-focused "The Killing Joke," the franchise has mostly veered away from the "KAPOW!" campiness of yesteryear toward the grittiness associated with the modern Batman.

Tim Burton's big-screen "Batman" introduced a brooding Caped Crusader to the masses in 1989, paving the way for the '90s deco-style Batman animated TV series featuring gangsters and femme fatales, as well as Rocksteady Studios' moody 2009 video game "Batman: Arkham Asylum" and its 2011 sequel "Arkham City," starring a diseased Joker on the brink of death.

"I think that change reflects popular taste," said Vasilis Pozios, a Batfan and Detroit psychiatrist specializing in risk assessment. "Batman has been around for almost 75 years now. There are many adult fans, and they have much more mature tastes now. We've seen that with the Nolan trilogy, which deals with very sophisticated and psychological ideas."

H. Eric Bender, a San Francisco psychiatrist who presented the panel "Detecting Deviants in the Dark Night: Profiling Gotham City's Serial Killers" with Pozios at San Diego's Comic-Con last year, said because mass shootings are so rare, it's nearly impossible to know what motivates killers and what impact—if any—the fiction they consume has on their psyche.

Schumer, the comic book historian and author of "The Silver Age of Comic Book Art," isn't interested in that. Like some relatives of massacre victims, Schumer refuses to even utter Holmes' name so as to not feed the suspect's perceived need for attention.

What's more, the author of "The Silver Age of Comic Book Art" is determined not to refer to the real-world tragedy in his future writings and lectures about the World's Greatest Detective because "to give any credence to what he did by analyzing it is enabling it and making us co-conspirators."

Katherine Jackson, attorney, meet face-to-face

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Katherine Jackson's attorney said late Thursday that he had met with his client face-to-face for the first time in several days and that she was doing fine despite familial squabbling that forced a judge to temporarily suspend her as guardian of her son Michael's three children.

"I had a long and productive meeting today with Mrs. Jackson," Perry Sanders Jr. wrote in a statement. "I am pleased to report that she is fine and she laughed at the widely publicized report that she had suffered a stroke."

The description of Jackson suffering a stroke was included in a letter signed by five of her children calling on executors of Michael Jackson's estate to step down. The letter was leaked last week and was an early sign of turmoil that was to come for the Jackson clan. Since late Saturday when a relative reported Katherine Jackson missing, speculation has swirled about her whereabouts, her health and why she hadn't called her grandchildren for nearly 10 days. Rival factions in the family released dueling statements on Twitter and family members tussled in the driveway of her home in an incident that remains under investigation.

Sanders said he would be releasing a formal statement Friday morning about his discussions with Katherine Jackson. He has previously said he will move to re-instate her as guardian over Jackson's children, Prince, Paris, and Blanket.

Although Thursday was a mostly quiet day in the ongoing Jackson family turmoil, it was not without drama.

"Although I am happy my grandma was returned, after speaking with her I realized how misguided and how badly she was lied to," Prince Jackson wrote in a posting on his Twitter account. "I'm really angry and hurt."

Billie Joe Armstrong joins NBC's 'Voice' as mentor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC's "The Voice" is adding a high-powered rocker to the mix.

NBC said Thursday that Green Day vocalist and guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong has joined the talent contest as a mentor to Christina Aguilera's team this coming season.

In a statement, Armstrong said he and his family are fans of the show.

"The Voice" has won over viewers because "it's not molding artists, it's just giving them a little bit of guidance and direction without giving them a complete makeover," he said.

Besides, Armstrong says, working with Aguilera is "a lot of fun." He started taping Wednesday on "The Voice," which has been in production for season three since June.

As the talent contest field grows more crowded, shows are competing for big-name music stars. "American Idol" is adding Mariah Carey as a judge, and "The X Factor" signed Britney Spears and Demi Lovato.

"The Voice" returns Sept. 10.

That's good timing for Green Day: The band has three albums coming out in quick succession, with the first, "Uno!", to be released Sept. 25.

In addition to Aguilera, the show's coaches include Cee-Lo Green, Adam Levine and Blake Shelton. Carson Daly is the host.

AP

In this Wednesday, July 25, 2012 publicity photo provided by NBCUniversal, Billie Joe Armstrong, right, sits with Christina Aguilera.

Willard says he did nothing to warrant arrest

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Fred Willard says he's embarrassed by his recent arrest at an adult movie theater but insists he did nothing wrong.

Willard was a guest Thursday on Jimmy Fallon's late-night show, where he and Fallon cracked jokes about Willard's lewd conduct arrest. Then Willard turned serious.

The 72-year-old actor said "everything is being sorted out" about the incident and that it was a matter of being "in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Willard, whose films include "Best in Show," was arrested July 18 for investigation of committing a lewd act. He was taken into custody by police doing a routine check at a Hollywood adult theater.

The Los Angeles City Attorney's office determined that Willard's case was eligible for a diversion program that could prevent formal charges against him.

Couric launching a talk show, dreams of Broadway

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Katie Couric is getting ready to star in a daytime talk show, but she dreams of starring in a Broadway musical.

The ABC newswoman and TV personality listed several items Thursday from her personal bucket list that also includes going on a date with George Clooney and jumping out of an airplane, despite her fear of heights.

Couric

Speaking to reporters at the Television Critics Association conference, Couric said she's excited to be starting from scratch with her new program "that tackles some of the things that you think are important, that you think people want to know more about."

Asked if she's nervous as the Sept. 10 launch date approaches, she confessed, "I think I'm a little scared. If I weren't, I'd worry."

Lighting up the Great White Way may be out of Couric's reach—at least, based on past experience.

"When I auditioned for my high school musical, `Carnival,'" Couric recalled, "they cast me as the deaf mute. Very humiliating. I objected, and then they gave me the part of the dancing bear."

Tapping into viewers' bucket lists (or, in hipper parlance, YOLO, for "You Only Live Once") will be a feature of "Katie," the syndicated hour that's among several contenders to fill the void still felt by the absence of Oprah Winfrey's hugely popular show.

"Katie" will deal with more substantive issues as well. Couric said she had already reached out to presidential candidates President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, as well as their wives "and anyone else in their family they'd like to bring."

She has also invited Sarah Palin, whom she famously interviewed while at CBS News during the 2008 campaign, exposing Palin in the minds of many viewers as ill-prepared to be the GOP vice presidential candidate.

None of these invitees have responded yet, Couric said.

Couric announced that the show's theme song, "This Day," was written and performed by superstar Sheryl Crow.

Couric joined ABC News and announced her Disney-syndicated talk show last year after a stint at CBS News.

She said her first few months anchoring "The CBS Evening News" in 2006 were the toughest of her career.

Suit filed over 'Expendables 2' stuntman's death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The parents of a stuntman killed while working on the film "The Expendables 2" filed a wrongful death lawsuit Thursday against the makers of the action film.

Kun Liu was killed during a stunt in Bulgaria in October 2011 while performing in a rubber boat on Ognyanovo dam, just outside the capital, Sofia. He died after suffering wounds from a nearby explosion.

His parents Zong Yu Liu and Yan Mei Bai are seeking unspecified damages of more than $25,000 against Millennium Films and the movie's stunt coordinator, Chad Stahelski.

Stahelski and Elizabeth Wolfe, a spokeswoman for Millennium Films, declined comment on the case.

Kun Liu, 26, was a native of Beijing and his parents are suing for funeral and burial expenses as well as "the loss of society, love, comfort, attention, services and support" of their son. They claim the filmmakers and Stahelski "negligently and carelessly failed to provide adequate protection from hard to the participants of the stunts."

"The Expendables 2" stars Sylvester Stallone, Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger and is due to be released in the United States on Aug. 3.

Bulgarian authorities at the time reported another stuntman was seriously injured during the explosion that killed Kun Liu.

Lack of eye contact betrays shy woman's social insecurity

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I have an offensive habit of looking people "up and down" when I first meet them, and when I think no one is aware of it. I have tried breaking myself of the habit, but I often don't realize I'm doing it until I catch myself. I know other people notice.

I'm a shy, self-conscious person, but at my age I should be comfortable enough with myself to not allow my insecurities to be so obvious. How can I stop this bad habit?

MS. LOOKIE-LOO IN GEORGIA

DEAR MS. LOOKIE-LOO: You may be looking people up and down because your social insecurity makes it difficult for you to look them in the eye—which is what you should be doing. As with any habit, breaking it will take practice. When you meet someone, make a conscious effort to look no further down than the person's shoulders. If you can't continue eye contact, shift your glance between the person's mouth and forehead.

DEAR ABBY: My co-workers and I are having a debate and need you to settle it for us. "Anthony" was born in Mexico and spoke Spanish for the first four years of his life. He was then adopted and has lived in the United States ever since. He does not remember any Spanish at all.

Anthony says that Spanish is his first language (since it was the first one he learned) and that English is his second. My other co-workers, however, say that Spanish cannot be his first language if he doesn't know any. Who is correct?

SPEAKING UP IN INDIANAPOLIS

DEAR SPEAKING UP: If Spanish was the language your co-worker learned in his early childhood, then Spanish was his first language. However, because he has spoken (and thought) only in English since the age of 4, English is his DOMINANT language. Readers, do you agree?

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I went out to dinner recently at an upscale restaurant in a hotel in a nearby city. During the dinner I asked my wife not to scrape bread crumbs from the tablecloth onto the floor, and to please not use her fingernail to pry something from between her teeth.

She became upset with me for saying it. What she was doing embarrassed me; it didn't look appropriate. She says I should have waited to tell her. We have agreed to abide by your words.

EMBARRASSED HUSBAND IN OREGON

DEAR EMBARRASSED: As long as you couldn't be overheard, there was nothing wrong with you saying it. In an upscale restaurant, the server is supposed to remove crumbs from the table—not the diner. And if there was food between your wife's teeth, she should have excused herself from the table to remove it. (Ick!)

DEAR ABBY: I am a 14-year-old girl and have a brother two years older than me. We look a lot alike. I often get, "You look like the girl version of your brother," etc. This doesn't bother me, but I really don't know a polite response to the comment. Any ideas?

RESEMBLES MY BROTHER

DEAR RESEMBLES: Just smile and say, "No, he looks like the boy version of ME."

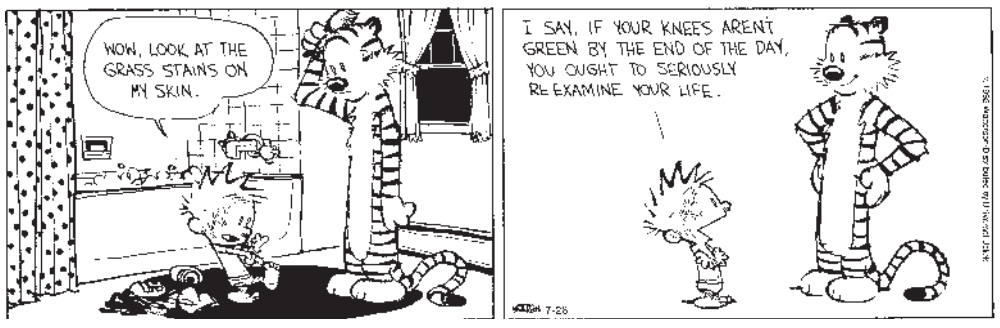
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

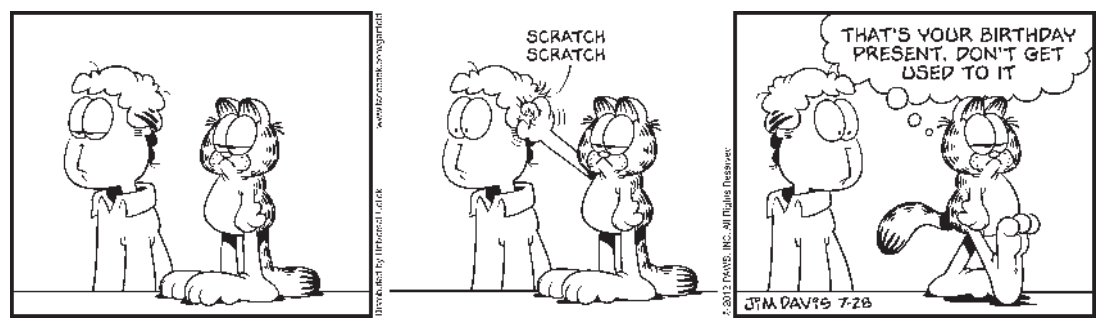
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WOW, LOOK AT THE GRASS STAINS ON MY SKIN.
I SAY, IF YOUR KNEES AREN'T GREEN BY THE END OF THE DAY, YOU OUGHT TO SERIOUSLY RE-EXAMINE YOUR LIFE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT'S THE BEST PAYING JOB?
STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS CAN HAVE A NEARLY UNLIMITED UPSIDE.
WHY UNLIMITED?
WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE DECIDING HOW MUCH YOU MAKE.
AWESOME! I'M STARTING A BUSINESS TOMORROW AND I'LL PAY MYSELF ONE MILLION DOLLARS.
YOU NEED A LITTLE SOMETHING CALLED REVENUE TO PAY YOURSELF.
MAY I HAVE SOME REVENUE, PLEASE?
IT'S ALL TIED UP IN MY OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Oil cartel
5 "Clue" weapon
9 Long. crosser
12 Within reach
13 Acknowledge
14 Wall climber
15 — Major
16 Yarborough of NASCAR
17 "A mouse!"
18 Canal zone
19 Sort
20 Remedy
21 Thither
23 Spring mo.
25 Sailing ship
28 Titanic's resting place
32 Attu dweller
33 Blue hue
34 Flight from danger
36 "Annus Mirabilis" poet
37 Started
38 Blond shade
39 Arrest
42 Facial feature
44 Look lasciviously
48 Illustrations
49 Director Apatow
50 Authentic
51 Id counterpart
52 Exam format
53 Run-down part of town
54 Agt.
55 "Pretty Woman" star
56 Taro root

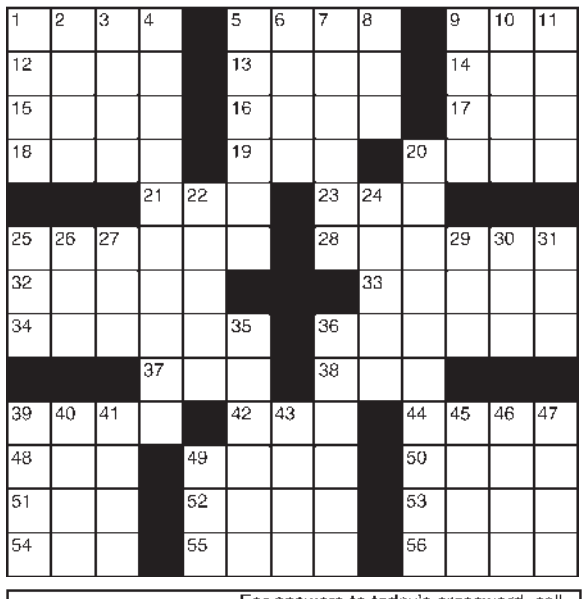
DOWN

1 Responsibility
2 Lima's land
3 Relaxation
4 Hodgepodge
5 Wisconsin city
6 Elliptical
7 Welk favorites
8 Ram's partner
9 Place
10 Maintain
11 Youngster
20 Little Big Horn commander
22 Bizarre
24 Bartletts, e.g.
25 "Humbug!"
26 Hearty brew
27 Rule, for short
29 Future bloom
30 Before
31 Lair
35 Urge, formally
36 Lag
39 Boxer Max
40 Incite
41 Halt
43 Hebrew month
45 Neuter
46 Praise highly
47 Red Muppet
49 Trot

Solution time: 27 mins.

J	I	M	■	■	Y	O	K	E	■	F	O	R	E
A	D	A	■	■	A	V	E	R	■	I	B	I	S
W	A	T	C	H	I	N	G	■	B	O	B	S	■
■	■	■	C	L	O	D	■	■	O	B	E	S	E
W	A	H	O	O	■	K	A	N	E	■	■	■	■
A	L	I	T	■	P	O	W	E	R	F	U	L	■
R	O	N	■	M	O	H	E	S	■	E	N	E	■
D	E	G	R	A	D	E	D	■	O	T	I	S	■
■	■	■	E	L	S	A	■	P	A	C	T	S	■
A	P	R	I	L	■	■	S	E	T	H	■	■	■
R	O	A	N	■	P	I	T	C	H	I	N	G	■
I	S	L	E	■	A	H	E	A	■	N	Y	E	■
D	E	E	D	■	D	A	M	N	■	G	U	M	■

Yesterday's answer 7-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elizabeth Berkley, 40; Lori Loughlin, 48; Sally Struthers, 64; Jim Davis, 67.

Happy Birthday: Believe in your abilities, and you will convince others to support your actions. Greater participation in worthy organizations will enable you to develop new partnerships that can help you advance personally or professionally. Romance, socializing and travel will open your world to new people, places and pastimes. Your numbers are 2, 8, 15, 26, 31, 39, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Spontaneity will play out well, giving you an edge over the competition. Don't let a bully ruin what you've got going. Love, socializing and enjoying people from all walks of life will lead to interesting endeavors. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Ask direct questions if you want to know the answer. Being pushy will help you put an end to an ongoing problem. You may not like the results, but at least you will be able to move on to better opportunities. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may be promised one thing and receive something quite different. Make sure you are on the same page as the person you are dealing with before you commit to something that may not be advantageous. Be smart and control the situation. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't make unnecessary changes. You are likely to upset your reputation or disappoint someone who depends on you. Concentrate on what you can accomplish, and surprise the people you care about most with your progress. Don't live in the past. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Follow through with something you've contemplated doing for some time. Alter your look or your attitude, or take a day trip that has the potential to inspire you. Love is evident, so don't waste time; express your feelings and enjoy the moment. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a backseat and be a spectator for now. Let everyone else make mistakes while you evaluate what's unfolding. You will be better equipped to protect your rights once you are sure you have a clear picture. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Stay in touch with people who stimulate you mentally, physically and emotionally. The experience you gain and the information you pick up will help you choose a direction that will lead to greater success. A short trip will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Re-evaluate your situation. Put more time into what you do well, and you'll find a way to market and make money doing something you enjoy. Follow your dreams and you will find yourself traveling down a path that leads to success. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): What you put in, you will get out. Fixing up your place or dealing in real estate will lead to greater prosperity. Playful action will enhance your love life and persuade others to join your pursuit. Change will bring greater happiness. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't go out of your way to help others. You will be taken advantage of if you are too accommodating. Focus on making your life and your world as stress-free and comfortable as you can. Listen to your inner voice. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You have the right idea and the right people around you to help you reach your goals, but the work has to be done by you. Someone from your past can help you now. Protect your money, your health and your emotional well-being. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You will have trouble assessing a situation based on what you hear. Misinterpreting what's being offered or said will lead to disappointment and possible loss. Avoid excess, whether it's you overdoing, or someone you spend time with. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, excitable and enduring. You are a thrill-seeker and a risktaker.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9	4		7	5	3	6	2	7
5								
7	8			1				6 5
4							8	
								1
8			2					3
	2	3		9	6		4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	8	6	7	5	2	9	4	1
2	4	7	6	1	9	5	8	3
5	9	1	4	8	3	7	2	6
9	5	4	8	3	6	2	1	7
6	7	8	1	2	4	3	9	5
1	3	2	9	7	5	4	6	8
7	6	5	2	9	1	8	3	4
4	2	3	5	6	8	1	7	9
8	1	9	3	4	7	6	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS Solution: 10 letters

H	O	N	E	S	T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	S
F	P	P	J	A	N	O	I	T	C	E	F	F	A	T
A	E	S	L	O	G	R	A	D	E	S	T	F	G	E
T	N	K	E	C	Y	C	L	E	S	N	N	S	E	A
H	S	E	T	I	S	O	P	P	O	O	E	P	D	C
E	C	E	T	E	T	E	U	R	E	I	M	R	F	H
R	N	H	G	N	A	I	S	S	V	S	E	I	R	I
E	O	O	I	N	E	M	L	O	O	A	E	N	I	N
H	S	M	I	L	E	R	E	A	L	C	R	G	E	G
T	P	O	L	T	D	L	E	M	N	C	G	T	N	A
O	O	V	I	T	A	R	L	F	O	O	A	I	D	D
M	R	I	F	I	I	C	E	A	F	R	S	V	S	U
S	T	N	E	M	O	M	U	N	H	I	I	R	E	O
C	S	G	D	E	F	E	N	D	A	C	D	E	E	R
T	L	A	U	G	H	T	E	R	E	I	O	N	S	P

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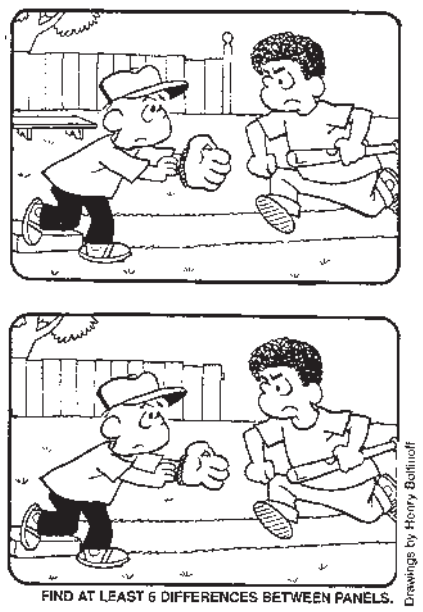
Admire, Advice, Affection, Aged, Challenges, Children, Close, Cycles, Defend, Different, Disagreement, Education, Father, Friends, Grades, Honest, Joyous, Laughter, Life, Love, Memories, Moments, Mother, Moving, Occasions, Offspring, Open, Opposites, Personalities, Proud, Raising, Sports, Talks, Teaching, Team, Time, Traditions

Yesterday's Answer: Ignites

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Drawings by Henry Boltinoff

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Differences: 1. Bench is missing. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Glove is different. 4. Post is missing. 5. Neckline is different. 6. Bat is moved.

Wishing Well®

5	8	7	3	7	4	6	3	4	2	3	8	7
F	C	E	T	X	N	B	E	O	U	A	O	P
4	2	8	7	4	5	2	6	3	6	2	5	4
B	N	N	E	A	U	B	E	C	S	O	N	R
3	2	8	5	2	4	3	8	6	8	3	2	4
H	U	T	A	N	R	O	R	T	O	T	D	I
6	3	8	5	8	5	2	4	8	2	7	2	5
R	H	L	F	I	T	E	E	M	D	C	E	E
4	5	6	3	8	3	2	5	4	3	4	8	7
R	R	O	E	P	R	N	H	T	S	O	U	T
6	8	2	7	2	8	2	8	7	4	5	4	2
N	L	E	C	R	S	G	E	H	O	O	H	Y
4	8	7	5	7	4	5	4	7	5	6	7	7
I	S	A	U	N	G	R	H	G	S	G	E	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

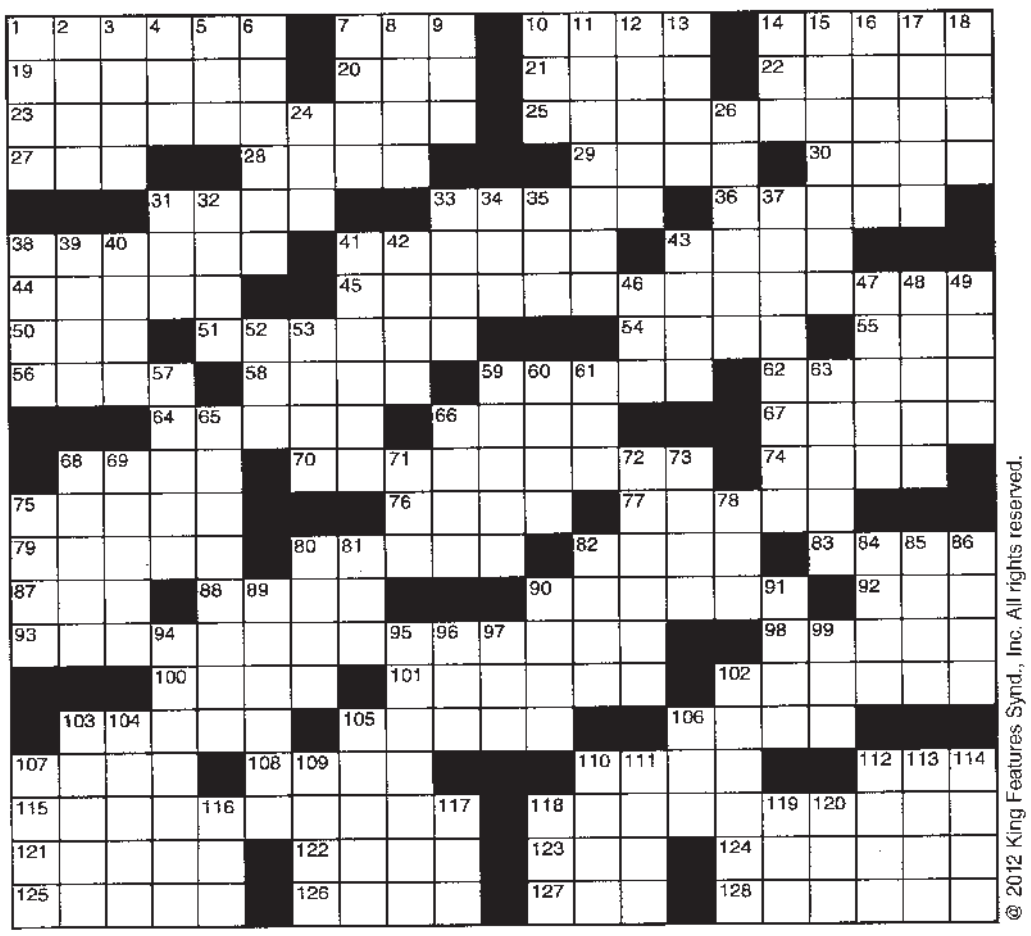
DESTINY'S CHILD

ACROSS

1 Scamp
7 Weimaraner's warning
10 Corrida victim
14 Cheerleader's maneuver
19 '59 Marty Robbins hit
20 Caviar
21 The Four — 22 Stadium
23 Speaker of a remark at 45 Across
25 Dashboard feature
27 Corpulent
28 Docile
29 Laugh loudly
30 "Comin' — the Rye"
31 Impressed immensely
33 "The Stepford Wives" author
36 "Carmen" composer
38 Jose of "Moulin Rouge"
41 Rock's Iron —
43 Jeroboam contents
44 Gentle as —
45 Start of remark
50 Fireplace fuel
51 "Rodeo," for one
54 — brakes
55 "— volente"
56 Willingly, once
58 Journalist Jacob
59 Plot
62 Link
64 Delibes opera
66 "Spartacus" setting
67 Persian, presently
68 Make a necklace
70 Part 2 of remark
74 Glen
75 Cookbook author Smith
76 Yemeni seaport
77 February forecast
79 Dismay
80 Composer Copland
82 Paint layer
83 Recedes
87 Sodom escapee
88 Cantata composer
90 Shook up
92 Palindromic preposition
93 Part 3 of remark
98 Sgt. Bilko
100 "An apple — . . ."
101 Fancy
102 Jacket style
103 Lid
105 Masters' "— River Anthology"
106 Palliative
107 "Rule Britannia" composer
108 QE II section
110 Epps or Vizquel
112 Officeholders
115 "Samson and Delilah" composer
118 End of remark
121 Right a wrong
122 Social climber
123 Crowd
124 January stoat
125 Correctional
126 Sundance's sweetie
127 Use a crowbar
128 Kant subject

DOWN

1 Scuba site
2 -- mater
3 Primer pooch
4 Mushroom part
5 Hibachi residue
6 Hang around
7 Harsh
8 Something to skip?
9 Musical syllables
10 Make lace
11 Wind instrument
12 Scout's job
13 Dept. of Labor div.
14 Houston or Huff
15 Twisted treat
16 Mythical river
17 Like some gases
18 Tropical tuber
24 Youngster
26 Runs circles around?
31 Prepare for combat
32 "Dragnet" star
33 Navel store?
34 Maestro de Waart
35 Filly physician
37 Sedentary
38 Hairpiece
39 "The Time Machine" people
40 Frenzy
41 Sphere
42 Singer/actor Ed
43 Keen
46 Regulatory agcy.
47 Unimprovable
48 Notre Dame's river
49 Basil or Braxton
52 Joan Van —
53 Branch
57 Panache
59 Bewitching bunch
60 Mass communication?
61 Golfer Hogan
63 Beside oneself
65 George Eliot novel
66 Change the decor
68 Subordinate to
69 Gladden
71 Paving material
72 Wagner heroine
73 Insipid
75 Spanish surrealist
78 Nice time of year
80 Sore
81 "So that's your game!"
82 Stallion's son
84 German auto engineer
85 Cheeseboard choice
86 Cassandra or Merlin
89 Tony, Oscar, and Edgar
90 Don —
91 Farmer's place
94 Italian city
95 Quail feature
96 — -Magnon
97 Lennon's lady
99 Computer acronym
102 He runs a clip joint
103 Pack peppers
104 Soubise ingredient
105 Perfume
106 Lea lament
107 PDQ, politely
109 Vacation sensation
110 Aroma
111 Melville title start
112 Medical suffix
113 Tempo or Rota
114 WWII gun
116 — Aviv
117 Federal agcy.
118 Mischiefmaker
119 Bonanza material
120 Actress Thurman



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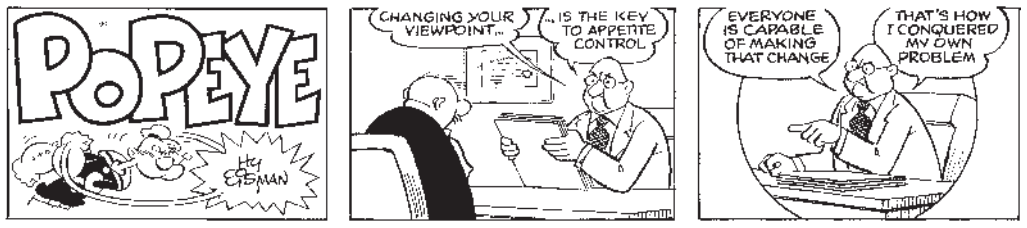

They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto

BIG MEN AT HOME DEP'T—BACHELOR BARFO, WHO PUTS OFF DOING DISHES, ASKS A QUESTION...
WHERE THE @!*#!! DO ALL THE DISHES GO? THERE NEVER SEEMS TO BE ANY CLEAN ONES AROUND....
Thanx to T. GUARINO, BRONX, N.Y.
FAMOUS LAST WORDS—"WE'LL ONLY STAY A FEW MINUTES"
TICK-TICK-TICK-
Thanx to BERT SPARR, SARASOTA, FL.
SHOCK WAVES—PUTTING A SLEEPOVER GUEST AT EASE...
WOO-O-O-O

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

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Japan stuns Spain in football; Brazil survives Egypt

CARDIFF, Wales (AP)—Japan upset Spain 1-0 on the first day of the men's Olympic football tournament on Thursday, while Brazil held on for a 3-2 victory over Egypt and host Britain had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Senegal.

Uruguay and Belarus also won as the tournament got under way with eight matches the day before Friday's opening ceremony.

Japan pulled off the surprising win after outplaying gold-medal favorite Spain, which went a man down in the first half and couldn't fight back.

Brazil got three first-half goals but nearly squandered the lead in the second, escaping with the victory to begin its quest for its first gold in Olympic football.

Britain's debut was spoiled by a late goal conceded in the draw with Senegal.

Japan got the winner in Glasgow when forward Yuki Otsu broke away from his marker during a corner in the 34th minute and the ball landed right at his feet for a simple tap-in past Manchester United goalkeeper David De Gea.

Spain was reduced to 10 men just a few minutes after the goal when center back Inigo Martinez was sent off for a foul while trying to stop a Japanese player from scoring.

"It was an important win for us," Japan captain Maya Yoshida said. "Spain are a very strong team in the group and we played well against them. We worked really hard and we will enjoy our victory. We can get a lot of confidence from this."

AP

Japan's Yuki Otsu celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the group D men's soccer match between Japan and Spain at the London 2012 Summer Olympics, Thursday, July 26, 2012, at Hampden Park Stadium in Glasgow, Scotland. AP

The loss comes as a blow for Spain's under-23 team, which wants to win Olympic gold to add to the World Cup and European Championship titles held by the country's full national team.

The Olympic side has two more matches to turn it around, against Group D opponents Honduras and Morocco, which drew 2-2 in Newcastle.

"Our aim is to win both of them. We have to," said Spain forward Juan Mata, who plays for Chelsea and is one of the three overage players. "We need to improve some things and we have to play better."

In Cardiff, Brazil got goals from Manchester United's Rafael in the 16th, Leandro Damiao in the 26th and Neymar in the 30th to earn a comfortable halftime lead before Egypt made it interesting with goals by captain Mohamed Aboutrika in the 52nd and substitute Mohamed Salah in the 76th.

Brazil leads Group C along with Belarus, which beat New Zealand 1-0 in Coventry with a first-half goal by Dmitry Baga.

At a nearly packed Old Trafford Stadium, Britain took the lead in the 19th after Senegal failed to clear a free kick into the box from captain Ryan Giggs. Fellow Welshman Craig Bellamy pounced on the loose ball, driving a shot into the ground that bounced to the left of keeper Ousmane Mane.

But Senegalese striker Moussa Konate ran on to a through ball that exposed Britain's defense fragility before chipping Butland from close range.

A frantic final few minutes saw Britain substitute Marvin Sordell hit the bar from close range. Konate could have scored a second, but his shot went wide.

"The fact that we got our noses in front and didn't go on to nail the game was a frustration," said Britain coach Stuart Pearce. "We've got another tough game Sunday, the group looks like it might be wide open."

Britain is playing in its first Olympic competition since 1960.

Earlier in Manchester, medal contender Uruguay got a goal from substitute Nicolas Lodeiro in the second half to defeat the United Arab Emirates 2-1.

In Group B in Newcastle, Gabon rallied for a 1-1 draw against Switzerland and Mexico escaped with a 0-0 draw with South Korea, which played better but failed to capitalize on the several scoring opportunities it created at St. James Park.

The football tournament started early because of its long match schedule. The women's competition got under way on Wednesday, two days before Friday's opening ceremonies.

Fencer Mariel Zagunis is US flag bearer

LONDON (AP)—The mother of fencing star Mariel Zagunis pushed up her flight by two days and frantically packed her bags to make sure she gets to London in time.

After all, it's not every day her daughter leads the U.S. team in the opening ceremony of the Olympics.

So Cathy Zagunis threw her things together Thursday at her home near Portland, Ore., still overwhelmed with emotion a day after her daughter called with the news. The proud mom is intent on getting to Olympic Stadium to see the two-time gold medalist serve as flag-bearer Friday night - and the U.S. Olympic Committee swiftly secured her a hard-to-get ticket for an event that could draw an upward of 1 billion viewers worldwide.

"I'm speechless is the problem," Cathy Zagunis said by phone, fighting tears. "I'm still in quite a bit of shock. It's an incredible honor to represent your country, but to be the single person at the opening ceremony holding the American flag is an amazing thing—to be the flag-bearer is incredibly special. When she told me, I cried for an hour."

For one night, Mariel Zagunis will turn her laserlike fencing focus to another important task with the world watching.

"I'm just going to focus on not tripping, not letting the flag touch the ground and doing everything right," she said at a news conference Thursday.

The start of the Olympics will be far more somber for the Israeli delegation. This is a time of remembrance - the 40th anniversary of the 1972 Olympics, when 11 Israeli athletes and coaches were killed in Munich by Palestinian gunmen.

The IOC would not allow a moment of silence at the ceremony. NBC Sports broadcaster Bob Costas, however, planned an on-air minute of silence of his own.

All the while, Israeli swim coach Chanan Sterling tried to keep his athletes focused, given the constant coverage in London and beyond of that terrible day 40 years ago.

"It's keeping them in our hearts, that's the main thing," Sterling said. "Everybody knows about it, thinks about it. We have a memorial also in Israel, there's a place in Tel Aviv that we gather before the Olympics with all the people who are coming to the Olympics—coaches, athletes."

Efrain Zinger, chief of the Israeli Olympic delegation, said the team has no special plans for the opening ceremony. The national Olympic committee will hold its own tribute Aug. 6 as it has during recent Summer Olympics.

"The Israeli delegation will march in the opening ceremony according to IOC rules," Zinger said. "We don't have any intention to break any of their procedures or regulations. It's not the place to make a statement."

But it will be a place for heavy hearts.

"It's very hard for us," Sterling said as his team trained in the Olympic pool. "But those days there were so many things. One year later there was the war in Israel. Those days we were used to this kind of life, unfortunately. Today it's not like that."

Through it all, he remains optimistic that any step toward bringing the world together—like an Olympics—will serve a better cause.

"We are hoping for it every day," he said.

It was no easy thing for Zagunis to earn her spot at the front of the 530-member U.S. team - 269 women and 261 men. First, she made it as a finalist and then prevailed in five rounds of voting by team captains. After four rounds, Zagunis and another unidentified athlete were tied.

"To get that final vote, someone had to change their mind, and they changed their mind in my favor," she said. "For the decision to be for me, in my favor, it means a lot to me. I can't believe it's going to be me."

Few will question the spirit and resolve of the 27-year-old Zagunis, not to mention moxie. For the occasion, she has wrapped strands of her wavy blond hair with glitter.

At the 2004 Athens Olympics, Zagunis was a late replacement but went on to capture a stunning victory in sabre - the Americans' first fencing gold in 100 years. Then came more gold in Beijing four years later.

Now, in her third Olympics, she welcomes her moment on the world stage and the attention it will bring to her sport.

"This is going to be one of my best Olympic memories, definitely," she said.

Lochte sets sights on gold, Phelps

LONDON—Heading into an epic showdown Saturday, Ryan Lochte remains on the Michael Phelps undercard. But from the sound of his brash words on Thursday, he clearly doesn't consider himself an underdog.

Phelps had his own press conference here Thursday with coach Bob Bowman alongside, playing to an auditorium jammed with journalists from around the world. That is standard operating procedure at the Olympics for Phelps; when you've won 14 gold medals, you can have the stage to yourself.

Lochte was lumped in afterward with fellow American swimmers Missy Franklin, Natalie Coughlin and Rebecca Soni. He's 11 gold medals behind Phelps and trying to play catch-up.

Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte will go head-to-head in the 400 IM. But off-podium, Lochte sounded like a guy who expects to own Phelps and the entire Olympic swim meet when it starts Saturday with one of the most anticipated events in Games history: Phelps vs. Lochte in the 400-meter individual medley to start the meet.

The two had three scintillating head-to-head swims in the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials in Omaha, Neb., last month, with Lochte winning the 400 IM and Phelps winning the 200 IM and 200 freestyle. (Phelps has dropped the 200 free for London, so the duels will only occur in the IMs.) As thrilling as those swims were, Lochte basically said we haven't seen anything yet from him.

"That was just a little appetizer," he said. "This is the big show. I wasn't working for the Olympic trials. I was working for this. I know I can go a lot faster."

Phelps was working for the Olympic trials, still trying to sharpen his game after a reluctant training regimen after his eight-gold-medal tour de force in Beijing in 2008 – an Olympics where he dominated Lochte in head-to-head races. The inference from Lochte: While Phelps was pushing hard in Omaha, he still had more in the tank that he chose not to expend.

That wasn't the only comment from Lochte on Thursday that hints at his confidence level.

On his mindset in London: "I'm not going for silver or bronze. I'm going for the gold."

On his training regimen since '08, which has included a variety of strongman-style workouts flipping heavy tires and lifting massive chains: "No other swimmer in the world is doing what I'm doing. … I think that's one of the edges I have. All I can say is, look at the last three years. I've gotten faster. … It does give me a confidence boost."

Phelps acknowledged Thursday that winning gold medals in London will "be a lot more challenging" than it was in Beijing. But he didn't become the greatest swimmer in history by backing down from challengers. He said he's ready for Lochte right away, in the first event of the meet, in an event he swore he wouldn't swim again after Beijing – but now here he is.

"There's not a better way in the world than to swim that race first thing," Phelps said.

For him, the four weeks since Omaha have been spent fine-tuning technique and tightening up conditioning. Phelps said repeatedly at trials that he was being "crushed on the walls." That means his turns were inferior to Lochte's, which is a distinct reversal from the devastating wall work Phelps did in Beijing.

Bowman said turns were "definitely" a point of emphasis since Omaha, and he likes what he's seen in that area.

Celtics-Heat on opening night of NBA season

NEW YORK (AP)—Miami's championship defense will begin where they won last season's title, and the first game for the Brooklyn Nets will be at home against their now-cross-town rival.

LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and the Heat will raise their title banner at home on Oct. 30 against the Boston Celtics as part of an opening-night tripleheader, meaning Ray Allen's first game with Miami will come against his former club and in a rematch of last season's seven-game Eastern Conference finals.

Also on opening night, Washington visits Cleveland (technically the season's first game, starting an hour earlier than the Boston-Miami matchup) and Dallas plays at the Los Angeles Lakers, Steve Nash's debut as Kobe Bryant's teammate.

''We all know this season is a very important one. We'd like to get back on top as a team,'' Lakers forward Pau Gasol said Thursday in London, where he and the Spanish national team were wrapping up preparations for the start of the Olympics.

The Nets, having now moved from New Jersey, will open the year Nov. 1 at home against the New York Knicks - whose Manhattan home is about 6 miles north of Brooklyn's Barclays Center. And NBA finalist Oklahoma City starts the season that same night, playing at San Antonio in a Western Conference finals rematch.

AP

LeBron James of the US Men's Senior National Team, center, drives against Facundo Campazzo, left, of the Argentina Men's Senior National Team during their pre-Olympic friendly basketball match at the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona, Spain, Sunday, July 22, 2012. James and his Heat will face the Boston Celtics in NBA's season opener in October.

Jeremy Lin won't be in that Knicks-Nets opener—his return to Madison Square Garden comes Dec. 17. The Knicks play in Houston on Nov. 23.

As for the NBA Finals rematches, both will get national-television treatment. The Thunder visit the Heat as part of a five-game slate on Christmas Day (to be aired on ABC), and the Heat will head to Oklahoma City on Feb. 14, a game to be shown on TNT.

The All-Star Game is in Houston on Feb. 17. The regular season ends April 17.

While Miami might be the site of the marquee matchup on Dec. 25, Los Angeles will get a Christmas doubleheader: The Lakers play host to the Knicks, and five hours or so after that game ends, the Clippers will get a visit from the Denver Nuggets.

Reigning NBA MVP LeBron James spent seven seasons chasing a title in Cleveland, then finally won one in his second season with Miami. But the season will be winding down by the time he and the Heat head to Cleveland again: Miami is set to play there on March 20, and then again on April 15 in the regular-season road finale for the champions.

Miami guard Dwyane Wade will be spending his birthday in Los Angeles, a secret he tipped his Twitter followers off to earlier this week: The Heat wrap up a six-game road trip against the Lakers on Jan. 17, the day when Wade turns 31.

The NBA has an eight-game schedule on Jan. 21, commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. Day with four national TV matchups—Indiana at Memphis, the Nets at the Knicks, the Spurs at Philadelphia and the Lakers at Chicago.

Maybe the game's most storied rivalry resumes in February: The Lakers are in Boston on Feb. 7, and the Celtics go to Los Angeles on Feb. 20.

Top draft pick Anthony Davis and the New Orleans Hornets start their season at home on Oct. 31 against San Antonio. Another Hornets game that will almost certainly get some attention is scheduled for Jan. 16 in Boston—where New Orleans rookie Austin Rivers would be facing a Celtics team coached by his father, Boston's Doc Rivers.

Meanwhile, one NBA star who was widely expected to change teams and still has not—Dwight Howard—would have his season-opener with the Orlando Magic on Nov. 2 at home against Denver.

Among other matchups of note involving players who changed teams in recent weeks:

■ Nash will play in Phoenix, the city where he won two MVP awards, as a visitor again on Jan. 30.

■ Joe Johnson returns to Atlanta for the first time with the Nets on Jan. 16.

■ Brandon Roy joined Minnesota this offseason, so he'll get his first view of the visiting bench in Portland on Nov. 23.

■ Jason Terry's return to Dallas would be March 22, when the Celtics make their trip to play the Mavericks.

Cards hand Dodgers, Ramirez another loss

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers lost their second straight game since acquiring Hanley Ramirez as the St. Louis Cardinals won 7-4 in the National League on Thursday.

Ramirez, obtained a day earlier from Miami, started at third base and had an infield hit, two walks and a steal, and he hit into a double-play grounder.

David Freese and Matt Carpenter had three hits for the Cardinals, who fell behind 4-2 by allowing four runs in the fifth and then scored four in the bottom half.

Cardinals starter Jake Westbrook (9-8) pitched seven innings, lasting at least that long for the third straight start. He allowed seven hits with six strikeouts.

Dodgers starter Chris Capuano (10-6) gave up six runs in 4 1-3 innings.

Nationals 8, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Edwin Jackson (6-6) pitched seven scoreless innings to steer Washington past Milwaukee.

Steve Lombardozzi hit a three-run triple as Washington sent Milwaukee to its seventh consecutive loss.

The Nationals have won six consecutive games, matching a season high, and improved to 59-39. The last time a Washington-based team was 20 games over .500 was 1933.

Milwaukee starter Yovani Gallardo (8-8) gave up seven runs in five innings.

Mets 3, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, New York's Matt Harvey dazzled in his major league debut, holding Arizona to three hits and striking out 11 over 5 1-3 innings.

Harvey (1-0) set a franchise record for strikeouts in a debut. He also doubled and singled to become the first pitcher since 1900 to strike out more than 10 and collect two hits in his first game.

Scott Hairston hit a two-run double and Andres Torres tripled and scored for the Mets, who snapped a six-game losing streak.

Arizona's Wade Miley (11-6) gave up nine hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Pirates 5, Astros 3

In Houston, prized prospect Starling Marte homered on his first major league pitch to help Pittsburgh hand Houston its 10th straight loss.

Pirates starter A.J. Burnett (12-3) shut out Houston until two solo homers in the eighth. Burnett went 7 1-3 innings, striking out five.

Astros starter Dallas Keuchel (1-3) gave up five runs in six innings.

Orioles 6, Rays 2

In Baltimore, starter Chris Tillman was dominant on the mound, leading the Orioles to a 6-2 win over the Tampa Bay Rays in the American League on Thursday, preventing a three-game sweep.

Tillman (3-1) allowed two runs in six-plus innings.

Chris Davis homered and drove in four runs for the Orioles, who had scored only one run in each of their three previous games.

Rays starter James Shields (8-7) gave up five runs and five walks in six innings.

Indians 5, Tigers 3

In Cleveland, Asdrubal Cabrera singled home the go-ahead run in a four-run seventh inning as Cleveland rallied to beat Detroit.

Carlos Santana and Travis Hafner had tied it at 3-3 by homering on the first two pitches of the inning by Justin Verlander (11-6).

Indians reliever Joe Smith (7-2) threw just two pitches to get the win, incuding an inning-ending double play in the top half.

The loss dropped Detroit half a game behind the Chicago White Sox in the AL Central.

Blue Jays 10, Athletics 4

In Toronto, Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer and Kelly Johnson added a solo shot as Toronto ended Oakland's seven-game winning streak.

Johnson went 2 for 4 with two RBIs as the Blue Jays avoided a three-game sweep and rebounded from Wednesday's 16-0 loss.

Brandon Lyon (1-0) pitched 1 1-3 innings for his first win since joining Toronto in a 10-player trade with Houston on Friday.

Oakland's Tommy Milone (9-7) gave up eight runs in seven innings.

Mariners 4, Royals 1

In Seattle, Jason Vargas allowed one hit in eight innings to win his career-high 11th game, guiding Seattle past Kansas City.

Vargas (11-7) allowed only a fourth-inning double while striking out five.

Kansas City did not get a runner to second base against Vargas after the fourth.

Mike Carp had three hits for the Mariners.

Royals starter Luis Mendoza (4-7) threw five innings and allowed four runs

Piercy shoots 62 to take Canadian Open lead

ANCASTER, Ontario (AP)—Scott Piercy kept his cool in the rainy first round of the Canadian Open.

Instead of beating up himself, the quick-tempered American roughed up defenseless Hamilton Golf and Country Club, shooting an 8-under 62 on Thursday to take a one-shot lead.

"I get really mad generally," Piercy said. "That's something that I have to very much control. And it's a lot easier to control when you're playing well. ... It's something that I constantly have to work on. I'm kind of a perfectionist in an imperfect game. ... It's just a constant battle within me that I always have to kind of keep it nice and chilled. Golf is the only time I get really upset."

Piercy eagled the par-5 fourth and 17th holes and had five birdies and one bogey in the rainy conditions to match the competitive course record set by Warren Sye in the third round of the 1991 Ontario Amateur. The 33-year-old Las Vegas player is coming off a third-place finish two weeks ago in the John Deere Classic.

"Hit a lot of fairways and a lot of greens today," Piercy said. "I was rolling the ball well, and obviously you got to make some putts, too. Hit it solid out there. I think I only missed a couple greens, and ball-striking around here with the rough being so penal is a must to shoot well."

He birdied three of his final five holes, punctuated with a 10-foot putt on No. 9.

"The greens were receptive," Piercy said. "I wouldn't say overly soft or hard."

Greg Owen and William McGirt shot 63, and Robert Garrigus had a 64. Charl Schwartzel, the 2011 Masters winner, was at 65 along with 2004 Canadian Open champion Vijay Singh, Troy Matteson, Bo Van Pelt, Jhonattan Vegas, Stuart Appleby and Gavin Coles.

Ernie Els, the British Open winner Sunday at Royal Lytham & St. Annes, opened with a 72.

The course was a soggy mess by the end of the rainy day. Players were allowed to lift, clean and place their golf balls on the fairways, and 94 finished at par or better.

"I woke up this morning, I thought the British Open was a week early, looking out the window," Schwartzel said.

Jim Furyk, the winner in 2006 at Hamilton and 2007 at Angus Glen, shot a 70.

Adam Hadwin topped the 23 Canadians in the field, shooting a 66. The 24-year-old player from Abbotsford, British Columbia, tied for fourth last year at Shaughnessy in Vancouver.

"It seems every time we hit the end of July, I kind of springboard my game back into shape," Hadwin said. "I shot 4 under and I was 1 over on the par 5s today. So that's pretty good confidence going into tomorrow knowing that if I play those par 5s pretty well I'm going to play pretty well."

Slumping Canadian star Mike Weir was tied for 112th after a 72. He's trying to make his first PGA Tour cut of the year.

Pat Fletcher, born in England, was the last Canadian winner, taking the 1954 event at Point Grey in Vancouver. Carl Keffer is the only Canadian-born champion, winning in 1909 and 1914. Albert Murray, a Canadian also born in England, won in 1908 and 1913.

RBC summer youth program starts Monday

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rollers Basketball Club's Rectify Summer Youth Basketball Program will begin this Monday at the basketball court in Koblerville.

Registration will start at 4:30pm and activities should be up and rolling by 5:30pm.

The program is structured as a fundamental skills clinic that ends in a tournament setting. It is designed to introduce basketball to interested youth players in the area, age 6 to 13 and will run in Koblerville for about two weeks before moving to Kagman II for Part 2 of its three-leg series. The program finishes up in Garapan.

"Our definition of rectify is to set right and we chose it as the title because that pretty well sums up what the RBC is trying to do—be a good example for the future generation," RBC head coach Joe Diaz said.

"The Rectify program gives the kids in these neighborhoods something to do during their summer vacation. The program is designed to be a fun and healthy way to promote a proactive lifestyle and interaction with others to help build social and leadership skills," Diaz added.

The RBC members also contrived a catchy acronym for the banner that reads Respect-Educate-CNMI-To-Inspire-the Future-Youth.

Organizers were trying to kick off the program last Monday, but did not receive the grant funding until last Thursday.

For more information, contact Diaz at 285-4141 or Paul Camacho at 233-8978.

'Challenge of the Champions' tonight

The inaugural "Challenge of the Champions" Saipan 10-Ball Tournament will be held tonight at Joe's Bar in Garapan.

"Challenge of the Champions" winners will be awarded with trophies, gift packs from Miller Lite, and donations from Hollywood Theater, Kinpachi Restaurant, and Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Players who won in the weekly tournament will be prioritized for inclusion in tonight's event. Non-weekly winners can still play for an entrance fee of $15. Weekly winners will only pay the $10 registration fee.

BCA rules will be applied and the tournament will be using double elimination format. Reservations can be made by calling 233-5367. Registration begins at 8pm, while matches start at 8:30pm. ***(PR)***

ELIAS

From Page 28

runs in the third frame off four hits and another sacrifice fly by Rod Camacho. Sablan belted a two-RBI single in the surge for an early 4-0 lead.

Talu Fahn roared back, however, in the bottom portion and pulled in front, 6-4, off six hits. Two leadoff hits set up an RBI single for Eldred Sanchez and a two-run homer for Eric Cabrera. A bonus run made it home off an error before Cabrera's long ball and Ryan Mizutani capped off the rally with an RBI base smash.

Talu Fahn then added a run off an infield error and a double by Manny Cabrera in the fourth inning, but Elias got it back later in the sixth from an RBI single by Glen Camacho.

Elias would turn the table in the sixth inning with another three runs, thanks to some costly errors and a couple of hits from Mel Manahane and Rod Camacho.

Talu Fahn then had a few good chances to secure the game in regulation, but left the winning runner at third base two times in a row. It responded with just one run in the last inning of regulation from a sacrifice fly by Eric Cabrera and Elias thwarted the rally effort with a double play and forced the match into extra innings.

Then both teams peppered the board with three runs in the eighth inning, but Elias put out another fire to save its tails, this time with the bases loaded.

Elias erupted with four runs in the top of the ninth inning, thanks largely to a towering three-run homer from BJ Nicolas. Ben Tagabuel also tacked on a welcomed RBI single and Elias hung tough out on the field to secure the win.

NATIBU

From Page 28

runs out of the gate. Ken Kalen provided the go-ahead single.

Gagu Eyez awoke at the start of the fourth inning and took a brief 6-4 lead off a three-run blast from Mike Iguel, but Natibu quickly tied it up in the bottom portion off an error and an RBI base rip from Jerry Guerrero.

Natibu then trolled ahead, 10-6, in the fifth inning off a pair of two-run homers from Ned Norita and Guerrero.

Gagu Eyez's JR Brel managed a solo shot in the top of the seventh, but it did not ignite a late rally.

Natibu's Guerrero batted 3-for-3 with three RBIs, while teammate John Welson also swung 3-for -3 with three runs.

670 Babes 14, Enamo Meta 12

Enamo Meta had a promising start for a 5-3 lead. It bashed four hits and hustled out some errors, while drawing two-RBI base knock from Julie Guerrero and an RBI single from another batter. The two other runs came off an infield error and a fielder's choice.

670 Babes countered with three runs in the bottom side off four hits, including an RBI single from Tani Masga, and then assumed control in the second inning, 7-5.

Enamo Meta's defensive breakdowns gave 670 Babes two early runs and two more came from Mel Benjamin and Erlinda Naputi's RBI singles.

The count shifted to 9-6 in the third inning, as Mel Benjamin answered Enamo sacrifice fly in the top half with a two-run bash in the bottom frame.

Three more runs were added to 670 Babes in the fourth inning, thanks to a booming two-RBI triple from Edilynn Benjamin, who then scored on a sacrifice fly from Popo Tudela.

Enamo Meta clawed back to within a run in the top of the fifth with a handful of runs off four hits and some extra throws around the field.

However, 670 Babes managed a pair of insurance runs to close the sixth inning and held its rivals to just one run in the final stand. Naputi delivered a two-RBI double in the clutch and went on to hit 4-for-4 at the plate.

Enamo Meta 14, Rookies 7

The Rookies trotted out to a 5-2 lead in the first inning off six hits, including the RBI singles from Emma Tenorio, Maridel and Brenda Camacho, and Abby Atalig. They also received an RBI walk with the bases loaded.

Enamo Meta managed two runs in response off an RBI walk and an RBI base poke from Vanessa Mobel in the bottom frame and later claimed the lead, 7-5, in the third inning. Enamo Meta connected with four hits, including an RBI single from Felisa Brel and a two-RBI base smash from Mobel.

The Rookies were skunked through the middle innings and Enamo Meta pulled away, 12-5, in the fifth inning off some errors, another RBI single from Brel, and a two-RBI double from Evelyn Kani.

OLYMPIC

From Page 28

pleasant pastures" to William Blake's anthem "Jerusalem."

Animal rights activists are none too pleased that farm animals have been roped in to perform, however. The group Viva! has complained that the show "smacks of the Roman gladiatorial arena.

Baah, Baah

Seventy sheep are set to star in the ceremony, alongside 12 horses, 10 chickens and three sheep dogs. Britain may no longer be the farm-based economy it used to be, but no less than 50,000 sheep farms still dot the nation's fields - the largest sheep flock in the 27-nation European Union. But the animals have been chosen for a far more symbolic reason: Shepherds and the pastoral life have long been romanticized by British writers like Edmund Spenser, and at every patriotic event Britons belt out the glories of "England's that captures the nation's identity, values, heritage, as well as its present and future. In their own ways, each of the elements represents some aspect of Englishness—though some in quirkier ways than others.

Maypoles

Each of Great Britain's four nations—England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - will be represented by a maypole topped with their national flowers. A pagan folk symbol, the maypole is still commonly erected in British villages during May Day celebrations (as well as elsewhere in Europe) to celebrate the return of warmer weather.

"It's an essential part of rural life," said Peter Halfpenney, the "squire"—or president—of a Morris dancing group. He was delighted that Boyle chose to feature maypoles but disappointed that Morris dancers—often ridiculed for their folksy costumes—don't get to take part.

Cricket

Is there a sport more English than cricket? Played and followed avidly in Commonwealth countries like New Zealand, South Africa and India, the sport's many technical rules—and the lack of fast, exciting action—baffle almost everyone else. Fans love the "gentleman's sport" for the strategy and patience it requires.

Nurses

Boyle has disclosed there will be a dance number of nurses celebrating the National Health Service, the country's universal health program. Not only that: performers were recruited from the NHS. Why? To Britons, nurses are the tough, strong and matronly face of the NHS, a nationally cherished post-war institution.

Bond, James Bond

Fast cars, fast women, Martinis shaken not stirred: The super spy 007 needs little introduction. First introduced by writer Ian Fleming in 1953, the fictional British secret agent is the protagonist in the longest-running film franchise to date, with Craig the latest incarnation in a long line. The Bond character's dress, cars and expensive tastes ooze British sophistication.

Glastonbury

Wellies, flooded campgrounds, no showers for days - the Glastonbury music festival is a summer rite of passage for many Britons. Started by farmer Michael Eavis in 1970 the day after Jimi Hendrix died, it has taken place every year since then in Somerset. Rain, hippies, music and mud - sounds like a recipe for an open-air Boyle extravaganza

DYS

From Page 28

of DYS and Garapan Rollers coach Joe Diaz, he was able to get the players he desired.

"I borrowed Joe Diaz's Rollers players. It was an almost complete team, we have the height, speed, and talent. The only problem that I thought of then was will they play for a different coach, for me," Venus said.

However, the players gave me no problem. They showed up in practices and games and did what they were told to do. Everyone was given playing time and each contributed either on offense and defense," the DYS/SMF coach said.

Venus said eventual MVP JP Iglecias lived up to expectations, providing leadership on the team, while CJ Morales was a big offensive threat with his ability to shoot both long and short jumpers. Mobile big man Djay Ong was a force inside and at one point scored 33 markers in the regular season and dominated the rebounding department, while off guard Sam Darag led the team's fastbreak plays. Mike Espinosa and Jun Fidelino completed DYS/SMF's formidable frontline, with the former causing problems to opposing team's attackers with his shot-blocking skills.

DYS/SMF bench was as deep as its starters, too, with the sixth man Fidelino picking up most of the offensive boards and loose balls for the team's second, third, and even fourth-chance points. Other DYS/SMF relievers who gave quality minutes every time they were on the floor were Mark Venus, Alcor Atmana, Joel Subang, Adrian de Luna, Roy Venezuela, and John Cano.

"Because of the talent of these kids, we were able to do our run and gun game and at the same time used our full court press to crush our opponents. With UFO's ground rules stating that every player has to play every quarter, I was able to use different player combinations," said Venus, who thanked DYS' Laura Ogumoro, the Rollers' Diaz and Verna Babauta, James Venus, and Nona Lizama for supporting the U14 champion team.

Focus, defense

DYS had a double celebration during the awards ceremony for the UFO caging as its U20 team also won a championship after a come-from-behind win over MDX/Armatech, 74-69.

The DYS/Bayani was about two minutes away from losing the U20 crown as it faced a 64-69 deficit. However, coach Omar Ajoste's wards remained focus and managed to pull off one of the best comebacks in the history of UFO.

"Focus was one of my four pointers to our players. The three others were trust, commitment and communication," Ajoste said. "

"I and my players did not panic. I never lose hope because I trusted them and I knew they will play even harder in the last two minutes of the game. Two minutes are still a lot of time and we just needed to play tough defense to force turnovers," he added.

DYS/Bayani did make defensive stops in the ensuing plays, while Jaymark De Guzman and Jimmy Tudela took care of business on the offensive end to give the team the U20 title.

"My players fought until the end and made those crucial stops and shots. Overall, it was our defense that carried us to the championship. Offense wins games, defense wins championships. Offense is easy to learn and defense is harder to teach," said Omar, who also thanked DYS for supporting his team that were made up of the core of the CNMI U17 Nationals.

SPORTS
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Activity Schedule for Saturday, July 28, 2012
2012 Summer Futsal League
6:00 PM Men's Division IT&E vs. Go Green
7:00 PM Women's Division Shirley's vs. Mellow Yellow
8:00 PM Women's Division IT&E Awesome vs. Wild Bill's
SAIPAN
SOCCER SCHOOL

Celtics-Heat on opening night of the NBA season

PAGE 26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Japan stuns Spain in football; Brazil survives Egypt

PAGE 25

Elias claims 'Bottom Six' softball title

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Elias players pose for a team photo after winning the "Bottom Six" championship match in the Chamolinian softball league against Talu Fahn, 15-11, last Thursday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Elias overcame Talu Fahn, 15-11, in nine innings of their title duel in the "Bottom Six" of Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Budweiser Softball League last Thursday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The champion team is composed Glen and Rodney Camacho, Gary and Mike Cruz, Brian Nicholas Jr., Jose Iguel, Delvin, Emilio and Melvin Manahane, John-Peter, Mario, and Myron Sablan, Ernest Sablan Jr., Ben and Jordan Tagabuel, and Jay Tilipao.

Elias and five other squads played in the single-elimination tournament after failing to make the competition for the Top 8 teams, which had a separate double-elimination contest.

Elias' Mike Cruz snuck on base off an outfield error and was escorted home via a sacrifice fly by JP Sablan in the first inning. Elias added three more

See ELIAS on Page 27

Natibu, 670 Babes catch last bus to finals

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Natibu and 670 Babes defeated separate foes last Thursday at the Capital Hill Ballfield to complete the finals cast in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Budweiser Softball League.

Natibu secured the second and last finals berth in the men's field after knocking out Gagu Eyez, 10-7. The men's finale was played last night with Natibu scheduled to face Your Balls, which held a twice-to-beat advantage in the title duel.

The women's championship was also set last night with 670 Babes and Sakudi battling for the crown. 670 Babes ousted Enamo Meta, 14-12, last Thursday for a finals date against defending champion Sakudi, which held a twice-to-beat edge in last night's title showdown. Before losing to 670 Babes, Enamo Meta won and eliminated the Rookies, 14-7.

Natibu 10, Gagu Eyez 7

Natibu postured a 4-3 lead in the bottom of the second inning after both teams moved around three

See NATIBU on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players and coaches of DYS-sponsored youth teams pose with their championship trophies after the awards ceremony for the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DYS teams bask in glory of title wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two Division of Youth Services-sponsored teams had resounding success in the 2012 UFO Docomo Pacific Cup and their respective coaches looked back at how the squads ruled the U14 and U20 divisions of the youth caging.

Abner Venus, who called the shots for the DYS/SMF U14 team that routed VisMinda-Hi-Five in the finals early this month, 114-44, said he right away thought of fielding a championship-caliber team in the youth league and through the help

See DYS on Page 27

A sneak peek at Olympic opening ceremony

BY SYLVIA HUI
AP SPORTS WRITER

LONDON (AP)— There will be sheep. A cricket game. Nurses. Plus Paul McCartney and possibly James Bond.

Officials want details of the 27 million-pound ($42.3 million) London Olympics opening ceremony to be a secret so that viewers can be surprised, but director Danny Boyle has already disclosed select details: Real farm animals on meadows; plows and maypoles; an idyllic picture of England as the "green and pleasant land;" a dance number featuring nurses and a closing song by McCartney.

Many reports are also suggesting a pre-recorded segment filmed inside Buckingham Palace featuring actor Daniel Craig as Bond, and a stuntman dressed as 007 who will parachute into the stadium to start the show. Later, the pastoral first act will be replaced by a grim scene reenacting a coal-blackened, industrial Britain at the mercy of towering chimney stacks and giant cogs.

How will it all come together?

AP

Olympic Rings hang from the Tower Bridge beyond a set of rings floating on the River Thames Thursday, July 26, 2012, in London. The city will host the 2012 London Olympics with opening ceremonies scheduled for Friday, July 27.

Sweeping vision

The ceremony's mastermind, filmmaker Boyle, has stressed that the 3-hour show will take viewers on a sweeping journey through Britain's history, one

See OLYMPIC on Page 27